defied the Islamic militants for two years by holding on to much of the territory north of the soaring Himalayan

peaks of the Hindu Kush.

With a rush of victories in the past week, the Taleban now hold at least

three-quarters of the country and seem poised to surround the last remnants of the alliance forces in two remaining redoubts, in the Bamiyan region of the central mountains and in the Panjshir Valley of the northeast

The Taleban thus appear to be close to achieving the goal that eloded a Soviet invasioo force of more than 100,000 men through moch of the 1980s, as well as American-backed guerrillas who battled Soviet forces, then set to a murderous civil was the set to a murder

derous civil war after driving the Russians out in 1989.

The goal is forging a new, united Afghanistan, one that will bring peace,

or at least the absence of war, to most of

a weary, demoralized and often hungry population of between 15 million and 20

million people.

While Taleban forces continued to push forward against the scattered and retreating foliance forces, no cities and toward against the scattered and retreating foliance forces, and toward forces the sur-

towns in recent days with only token resistance, the historic significance of

the moment was proclaimed by the Taleban's representative at the United Nations in New York, Noorullah Za-

dran.

"After 25 years of struggle, it seems to us that we have finally come to the end of the struggle," Mr. Zadran said in a television interview Wednesday with the PRC "Finally, we believe that the

the BBC. "Finally, we believe that the war is at an end."

that seemed set on a diametrically op-

posite course in 1973, when a palace coup mounted by his cousin, Mohammed Daoud, ousted King Zahir Shah, the last representative of the Durrani dynasty that had ruled the country for 250 years.

President Daoud, as he became, pro-claimed himself a modernizer, but las-ted barely five years before he, in turn, was overthrown and killed, in April 1978, in a military coup staged by the

Soviet-backed Communist Party, which proclaimed a far more radical program

Above all, the Communists' program

Within hours of taking the crenellated

Arg Palace in Kabul, the Communists

vowed to emancipate Afghan women,

achieve universal literacy, and move the country beyond its hullock-cart econ-

See TALEBAN, Page 5

If so, the outcome is full of irony, and many would say tragedy, for a nation

In Cruel Afghan War, Hour of Decision Nears

Taleban Forces Seem on the Verge of Victory In Struggle to Impose Purist Islamic Society

NEW DELHI -- A quarter of a centhe Metric A quarter of a century after the overthrow of the Afghan monarchy started the country of a downward spiral into fratricide and destruction, the Islamic hard-liners of the Taleban ANA ANALYSIS

movement appear to be on the brink of re-unifying the country.

With this, they will be closer to their goal of imposing throughout the land their vision of a purist Islamic society, one that condemns women to a lifetime

of domestic seclusion and sobmission. In a monthlong offensive, Taleban forces have overwhelmed the forces of the so-called Northern Alliance, which

	The Dollar	
New York	Wednesday 8 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.7859	1.7814
Yen ·	146.285	147.365
FF_	5.9935	5.9705
Pound <i>Dollars per po</i>	1.6265 sund.	1.6325
	The Dow	
	Wednesday close	percent change
+ 90.11	8,552.96	+ 1.06%
F	S&P 500	
15.24	1,084.22	+ 1.43%
Ŧ	Nasda	
32.81	1.825.51	+ 1,83%

AGENDA

Kohl Impatient On Kosovo Strife.

BONN (AFP) — Chantellor Helmnt Kohl of Germany raised the possibility Wednesday of allowing NATO strikes in the Serbian province of Kosovo without waiting for a UN mandate.

Mr. Kohl said that Bonn respec-ted the role of the UN Security seen, with Bosnia-Herzegovina, a catastrophe developed so suddenly

that the whole world rightly said:
"Now, do something,"

He said Germany had agonized over intervention in Bosma after hearing accounts of executions and widespread rape. He said he hoped the same scenario would not be repeated in Kosovo, but "unfortunately, that can't be ruled out."

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Crossword	
Opinion	
Sports	Pages 16-17.
The IHT on-line	www.iht.com

Tracking Terrorists: Too Many Blind Alleys

By Tim Weiner New York Times Service

NAIROBI - In the war between the United States and terrorists since the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Embassy and the Marine barracks in Beirut, the body count is grim. Today it stands: Americans killed in bombings and hijackings in the Middle East and Africa, 307; terrorists convicted for those crimes by U.S. courts, 1.

As the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency set up shop in borrowed offices here and in Dar es Salaam. scropneing desks and the United States and terrorists since

laam, scrounging desks and telephones while spearheading a glob

Several embassies shut. Page 2.

al search for the people who bombed the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tan-zania, they know all too well that acts of terror committed overseas are the most difficult cases for them to crack.

The complexity and sophistication of foreign terrorist organizations are increasing, present and former intelligence officials say.

The andacity and skill required in these bombings—two nearly simultaneous attacks, more than 300 miles apart killing more than 200 people. apart, killing more than 200 people — were breathtaking to veterans of the

"Two at coce is not twice as hard," said Milton Bearden, a retired senior CIA official who had served as the agency's ranking officer in Sudan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. "Two at

once is 100 times as hard." The Kenyan government an-nounced Wednesday that it had arrested suspects in Nairobi. So did the

See NATROBI, Page 5



Prudence Bushnell, the U.S. ambassador to Keoya, being overcome by emotion after laying a wreath at the site of the bombing. Page 5.

2 Inspectors Say Iraqis Threaten UN Surveillance

Council Plans Meeting On Saddam Challenge To Long-Term Program

By Barbara Crossette

UNITED NATIONS, New York -Two chief UN arms inspectors told the Security Council on Wednesday that Iraq was threatening the long-term mo-itoring program designed to keep the country ooder surveillance if sanctions

In the latest confrontation with the UN, Baghdad had already effectively ended weapons searches.

The inspectors say they can no looger feel confident that Iraq is out restarting prohibited weapons programs.

The Security Council is expected to meet, perhaps as early as Thursday, to confront this oew and unexpected prob-

lem.

Not since the disarmament of Iraq began after the Gulf War in 1991 has there been any indication that Saddam Hussein would try to hlock loog-term surveillance as a price to pay for the lifting of sanctions — although arms cootrol experts have loog suspected that the monitors would face problems.

"The entire purpose of the monitoring program," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wiscoosin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, "is to discover things that would later be followed up by intrusive inspections. If you can't

hy intrusive inspections. If you can't check something that you discover by monitoring, theo there's no point in monitoring. If Iraq is saying, you can't do any more inspections, even if the monitoring indicates something suspicious, then you might as well oot be

there."
In letters to the Security Council, Richard Butler, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, and Mohammed Baradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Wednesday that Iraq's refusal to cooperate with active inspections was already weakening what they called "ongoing monitoring and verification."

cameras and sampling devices for air, soil and water that have been installed on sites the inspectors say they need to watch indefinitely. It was assumed that active search-and-destroy missions could take place if oew information came to light that warranted inspections.

Now both chief inspectors - Mr. Butler for hiological, chemical and missile systems and Mr. Baradei for the clandestine nuclear program --- said that Iraq was not only blocking follow-up searches wheo mooitoring raises questions hut had also frozen technical talks on outstanding issues.
"The restrictions imposed by Iraq

Burma's Unrelenting Tug-of-War

Leaving Capital, Dissident Prepares for New Standoff With Regime

By Seth Mydans

aimed at uprooting the pervasive and mainly retrogressive influence of New York Times Service BANGKOK - Loading up a van Muslim clerics, who established what with food, water and other supplies, amounted to a condominium with the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi embarked again Durranis that consigned Afghanistan to a social and economic backwardness Wednesday on one of the few means of that marked the country out in an Asia protest she has: She drove into the counthat was already beginning by the late tryside as far as she could until the military authorities who rule Burma 1970s to catch up with the Western

The last time she did this, at the end of last month, she spent six days inside her car, blocked by soldiers from proceeding and refusing their order to return to the capital, Rangoon. This time, foreign diplomats said, she was better supplied for a potentially even longer stay.

The spectacle of the country's prodemocracy leader - and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize - stalled for days inside her car and surrounded hy soldiers seemed an apt symbol for Burma's

political dead end. Ten years after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stepped forward as a leader during a pro-democracy uprising, her main accomplishment is to dramatize the homan rights abuses and political repression of the Burmese military rulers. She has oot succeeded in easing the lives of

her countrymen. Eight years after her party, the National League for Democracy, won a landslide victory in parliameotary elections, its delegates remain blocked from

taking office, powerless, harassed and

ofteo jailed. In another of the symbolic acts that are her only weapons, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has demanded that the elected National Assembly convece by Aug. 21, though she has oot said what would happen if, as expected, the military gov-

ernment ignores her demand. In advance of this date, she has begun traveling to the countryside to try to meet with her supporters. The first two times, brief meetings were permitted. The secood two times, she was stopped, oo the same road and in almost the same place — 24 kilometers (15 miles) west

See BURMA, Page 5

See IRAQ, Page 5

Bunnies Without Carrots in Belarus

By Michael Wines New York Times Service

MOSCOW - It's not easy to get fiscal respect when your oational currency is nicknamed the bunny. But in Russia's westerly neighbor Belarus, where the hunny is king, ap-

peliation is the least of the economic The Belarussian ruble - called the zaichik, or little hare, after the engraving that is its main feature - has lost half of its worth in five months, and more than 10 percent in the last week

alone. International lending agencies all but wrote off the economy last spring. Foreign investors have been packing up and leaving for months.

Now, the government has announced a new and perhaps unintentionally revealing plan to shore up the ruhle's valoe: Starting next week, the country will oo longer accept its own currency as payment for exports.

That will keep outsiders from pumping more rubles into an economy already flooded with so many that the currency is essentially worthless. Bot outside experts say it will not solve the

real problem: The Belarus government, which controls most of the country's industry and the prices of most goods, prints more rubles whenever it runs short of cash.

The latest plunge in the ruhle's valoe occurred after the nation's autocratic president, Alexander Lukashenko, said the government would issue more bunnies to pay for the fall harvest.

Belarus's currency aside, Mr. Lukashenko is that rare leader who openly longs for a return to the Soviet

See BELARUS, Page 13

. and a Big, Innovative Stick in Ukraine

PEREYASLAV-KHMELNITSKY, Ukraine - In a bizarre move redolent of the country's Soviet past, about 1,000 elite businessmen were bused to a civil defense training camp on Wednesday and told by the angry prime minister they could oot leave until they had paid

Only when they have decided how to pay their debts will they be allowed oot, ' intoned Valeri Pustovoitenko at a

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CyprusC £ 1.00 Nigaria 12500 Naira

Great Britain ... £ 0.90 Saudi Arabia ... 10 SR

Kenya K. SH. 160 U.S. Mil. (Eur.) __\$ 1.20

____EE 5.50 S. Africa __R12 + VAT

.1.250 JD UAE 10.00 Dh

700 Fils Zimbehwe Zim \$40.00

Bahrain......1.000 BD Malta...

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meeting of regional officials in the cap-

ital Kiev. "They will only be allowed out with my personal permission," he said of the camp, surrounded by barbed wire, con-crete walls and parrolling policemen,

who barred foreign journalists.

Bot instead of breaking rocks or shoveling manure, the "prisoners" will be made to attend seminars and brain-

to pay back the billions of dollars they owe each other, their impoverished employees and the government in unpaid

debts, wages and taxes.

The civil defense camp is just one part of Mr. Pustovoitenko's unorthodox campaign to crack down on tax delinquents, which some have criticized as authoritarian. (Reuters, AP)



CONGO MOBILIZES - Thousands of recruits to the Congolese Army cheering Wednesday at a stadium in the capital, Kinshasa. The human-rights situation was reported to be deteriorating. Page 2.

Braving Slings and Arrows, Mrs. Clinton Is Winning Sympathy

By Lizette Alvarez New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - As Hillary Rodham Clinton's bus chagged along the roads in upstate New York recently on a tour for historic preservation, she glanced out the window at a woman holding

aloft a cardboard sign. It said, "You Go Girl."
It appears that Mrs. Clinton has been trying to do just that, and in some respects, is succeeding, even as her husband prepares to face a federal grand jury on Monday about his relationship with Monica

Mrs. Clinton's approval ratings across the countraveling to Russia, Ireland, Chile and Uruguay. try are higher than ever. Instead of sequestering herself at the White House, away from the klieg lights and the inevitable questions about Ms. Lewinsky, Mrs. Clinton has crowded her schedule with

things to do and people to see. Two weekends ago, in the Hamptons oo New York's Long Island, Mrs. Clinton dropped in on the glitterati, firing up a crowd of 1,000 people who whooped and hollered as she introduced her husband. And she has helped several Democratic candidates, recently raising \$150,000 in Philadelphia for one candidate. Sooo, she will be

Once in a while, Mrs. Clinton has stirred things up by dishing out a few select words about the Lewinsky matter, in which a grand jury is investigating whether President Bill Clinton lied when asked under oath if he had had a sexual relationship with the former intern and whether he

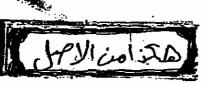
tried to cover it up. In January, Mrs. Clintoo placed the hlame on a 'right-wing conspiracy" spearheaded by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, and his allies, for trying to ruin her husband's presidency.

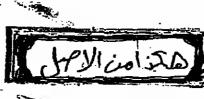
On Tuesday, in an interview published in The

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Mrs. Clinton said that prejudice against Arkansas was driving the attacks oo her husband. "I think a lot of this is prejudice against our state," she told the newspaper. "They wouldn't do this if we were from some other state."

Some Republicans in Arkansas seized on Mrs. Clintoo's remark. "I know she must be going through a lot of stress, but I don't think anyone in Arkansas believes this is occurring because of prejudice towards the state," said Representative

See MRS. CLINTON, Page 3





The Enigma of Suharto's Son-in-Law

By Cindy Shiner

AKARTA - There are two legends in Javanese culture about what happens when a man marries the daughter of a king. The groom could be like Jaka Tingkir, who killed his father-in-law and established a new kingdom. Or be could follow the fontsteps of Ageng Mangir, who attempted several coups against another sultan and ended up dead.

Today, Indonesia is watching the story of former President Suharto and his son-in-law, Lieutenant General Prabowo Subianto.

Hashim Wahid, a businessman who has known General Prabowo since kindergarten, said he asked him once in jest: "Who do you want to be? Jaka Tingkir or Ageng Mangir? The response? "He just slammed the door in my face and never talked to me again for 12

Since Mr. Suharto was forced from power by student protests and widespread rioting in May, sources close to General Prabowo say the former president has refused to speak to him and considers him a traitor. Geoeral Prabowo, 46, a mercurial and ambidous soldier, is suspected of involvement in some of the events that led to the end of Mr. Suharto's 32-year rule, including the abduction and torture of political activists. He appeared before a military Honor Council on Monday to answer questions about his alleged role in the abductions and could face disciplinary

[General Subagyo Hadisiswoyo, the army chief of staff who beads the tribunal, said Wednesday that "Prabowo has admitted wrongdoing, and will take responsibility," The Associated Press reported. Geoeral Subagyo did not say whether the tronps accused kidnapping were under General

Prabowo's command at the time.] Derisively referred to among his peers as a "golden boy" who rapidly rose through the ranks to become the army's youngest peacetime lieutenant general, General Prabowo represents both the excesses of the former military-backed government and today's soul-searching by an institution trying to maintain its dignity and redefine its role at a time of democratic reform.

His questioning by the military council is widely seen as a way of putting the Indonesian armed forces on trial. The military is under pressure to investigate its alleged abuses, and blaming someone so closely identified with Mr. Subarto as General Prabowo helps make it seem that a break has been made with

the past.

The public fascination with General Prabowo is intense. His face, accented by his special forces red beret, has been splashed on the cover of magazines for the past two weeks.

'He's the most charismatic, enigmatic, unusual and weird guy I've ever known in my life," said a defense analyst with long experience in Indonesia. "He's also laudable and detestable." be said. adding, "Pick an adjective, and it fits."

Depending on whom you ask, General Prabowo | provinces as Aceh, Irian Jaya and East Timor, Mr. | gamble, and it backfired."



General Prabowo arriving to testify about political kidnappings before the military Honor Council, where Wednesday he admitted 'wrongdoing.'

is either the fall guy for misdeeds committed by the Suharto government and the military, or he is a power-hungry fanatic who misjudged the forces he might have been up against if he chose to take on his father-in-law. In the end, perhaps Javanese history will have a new legend — the fall from grace of both the king and the prince.

"To be fair, I think there's more to it than just Prabowo here," said Marzuki Darusman, deputy chairman of the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights. "I'd say he's a keeper of secrets, and he might be predisposed to reveal a few if forced

Local newspapers reported last week that a group of retired generals had called on the Honor Council to investigate the possible involvement of Mr. Suharto, who was commander-in-chief of the armed forces, in the abduction of the activists. An investigation is already under way into the wealth he

amassed during three decades in power.

Some people say that while Mr. Suharto might not have ordered General Prabowo to abduct political activities.

Suharto might have indicated that was his wish, and General Prabowo could have carried it out to win his favor.

Although General Prabowo gained status and power by marrying Mr. Suharto's daughter, Sio Hediyati Harijadi, or Titiek, a successful businesswoman, he also comes from one of Indonesia's most prominent families. He is the son of Soemitro Djojohadikusumo, a widely respected economist who fled the country in the 1950s after being accused of supporting a rebellion.

URING his early years, General Prabowo lived in England and Switzerland. He adopted the Western approach of tackling problems head-on, and this later put him in frequent conflict with Mr. Suharto, a master of the subtle Javanese style of getting his way. When General Prabowo's family returned from Europe, be enrolled in the military academy as a way to pursue his ambitions and to his expect on his own terms. to win respect on his own terms.

"It was prohably the most prestigious pro-fession then, back in the '70s," the senior government official said. "Later on, with the opening of the economy in the mid-'80s, he began to find that the army officer corps' official social status had declined relative to the emerging new professions, particularly in the modern economy: banking, accountancy, law, architecture." By that time, General Prabowo had spent 10 years fighting sep-

aratist guerrillas in East Timor.

General Prabowo's commitment to the armed forces deepened after attending military training courses in the United States. By 1995, be had risen to command Indonesia's special forces unit, known as Kopassus, and forged close links with the U.S. military.

Reportedly helped by funds from a brother, General Prabowo increased the size of Kopassus from 3,500 to 6,000 men and provided extra pay and plots of land for homes to his troops. His fellow officers resented his meteoric rise; others worried that he was seeking to create a

private army and consolidate his power base.

Over the years, allegations of human rights abuses in East Timor, Irian Jaya and Aceh arose, and the military's reputation began to slide. General Prabowo, it was said, was eager to prove that if the military was oo longer revered, he would command respect through force He developed a remutation for respect through force. He developed a reputation for treating his troops brutally and became known for anti-Chinese and anti-Semitic rhetoric. In the final days of Mr. Suharto's rule, General Prabowo was suspected of trying to engineer a takeover of the government. Sources close to him say his offer to send troops to the capital to suppress noting directed at ethnic Chinese was rejected by more senior mil-itary commanders. There was suspicion that General Prabowo, or people close to him, had organized the

rioting to create an excuse for a crackdown.

'The idea that was presented to me was that Prabowo would come trotting up on a white horse say has been widespread for years in such rebellious | the defense analyst said. "If so, it was a hell of a

Rights Abuses on Rise In Congo's Civil War

By Lynne Duke
Washington Post Service

KINSHASA, Congo — The human rights situation all over Congo has deteriorated dangerously during the country's eight-day-old civil war, according to numerous diplomatic and humanitarian agency sources. They have reported executions of Congolese and Rwandans, bostage-taking of Ameri-cans and disregard for the protections usually afforded to foreign embassies and the United Nations.

The abuses are being committed by both sides in the conflict between President Laurent Kabila's armed forces and rebellious ethnic Tutsi soldiers backed by Rwanda's mostly Tutsi army, which

is fighting to topple him.

These allied Tutsi forces are the same ones that led the revolt that ousted the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May 1997 and installed Mr. Kabila in power. They have been joined by some non-Tutsi troops from Marshal Mobutu's defeated army who were inducted into Mr. Kabila's forces, and have captured towns in Congo's far east and far west that a government counteroffensive is now bidding to retake.

The Tutsi, who account for a small portion of the population in Congo and in Rwanda, where they dominate the country's leadership, have long been a target of resentment and anger in Congo. Although their roots in eastern Congo go back centuries, Congòlese of other ethnic groups often refer to them as foreigners, most often simply as Rwandans. Such long-standing enmity was heightened when Mr. Kabila retained many Tutsi in his government and allowed Rwandan troops to remain in Congo even after Marshal Mobium's

With regional and ethnic alliances shifting and fears of increased foreign involvement in the war, this highly fluid and volatile country is fast plunging toward anarchy in some regions, according to a variety of sources. Here in the capital, the situation is

similarly chaotic. Although no fighting has occurred here since the initial skirmishes when the rebellion began Aug. 3, soldiers, police and intelligence agents have been rounding up Tutsi troops and civilians. In some instances, civilians have denounced suspected Tutsi and known as-

sociates to the authorities. Two Burundian Tutsi diplomats were detained briefly by Mr. Kabila's troops on Monday, and the troops hurled ethnic abuse at the Burundian ambassador when he tried to intervene, a diplomat

headquarters building here. UN offi- Congo and in Rwanda for months.

cials, however, stood their ground and convinced the troops that they could not

Detained Tutsi are being held in desperate conditions in prisons at a military camp, a local botel and a security headquarters building, according to diplomatic sources and a witness.

They are given little food and water and are crammed into cells so crowded that people must sleep while sitting and relieve themselves where they are, the witness said. Several executions have taken place at these prisons, according to the witness, who said be beard screams and gunshots at one such site.

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From Politics

Diplomats concur that executions appear to have taken place, but the exact

number is not known. Interior Minister Gaetan Kakudji called the detendons "a preventive measure to shield the Rwandan women and children" and the Congolese Tutsi

from lynching."
"We bave kept them in a place for humanitarian reasons," he said, without saying how many were detained or

In rebel-held territory in the west, mutinous troops took 10 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers hostage Sunday night in the town of Boma oear the mouth of the Congo River, diplomats and an oil industry source said. The volunteers, along with two Canadians and a Belgian, had taken refuge at a Unicef com-pound because of fighting in the area. Rebels arrived to lont the place and robbed the foreigners of all they had and seized UN vehicles.

After a tense siege and negotiations by diplomats, the 13 foreigners were allowed safe passage downriver to the Atlantic coastal town of Banana, also in rebel hands, Monday afternoon. From Banana, they were evacuated to an oil tanker offshore, and then to the Angolan capital, Luanda, diplomats said.

In eastern Congo, the rebel troops are accused of targeting other ethnic groups

in much the same way that Tutsi are

targeted in the capital.

In the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu, where the rebels have seized the towns of Gorna, Bukavu and Uvira along Congo's border with Rwanda and Burundi, multiple ethnic grudges reportedly are being played out, with the Tutsi rebels settling scores with

groups that oppose them.
"We know that Katangese were targeted," a second diplomat said, referring to Congolese from the sonthern Katanga region, who have been at odds with the Tutsi since Mr. Kabila's anti-Mobum uprising. "We know that some Hutu in North Kivu were targeted and On the same day, troops attempted to are two main ethnic groups in the Kivu enter and search a high-rise UN region that have been battling Tutsi in

Threats Shut Several U.S. Embassies

Temporary Closures Include Installations in Malaysia and Uganda

By Philip Sheoon New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Several U.S. embassies have temporarily closed down routine operations in response to threats made after the terrorist attacks on the embassies in Keoya and Tanzania, according to State Department

The officials said that the affected embassies included those in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Kampala,

The State Department refused to provide a formal list of the shuttered embassies out of concern that it might be used by terrorist groups to identify future targets or might lead to "copycat calls mimicking terrorist threats.

Officials said they could not recall a similar instance in recent years in which a number of U.S. diplomatic installations, which often get threats of vi-olence, had suspended operations simultaneously.

In Mbabane, capital of Swaziland, the U.S. Embassy was evacuated for several bours Tuesday after a bomb threat.

In West Africa, the U.S. Embassy in lvory Coast said it had cut back its business hours while security was re-

The State Department also said Tuesday that it had received information about possible threats to U.S. targets in Egypt and Yemen.
The Cairo office of the Agency for

International Development shuttered and its employees moved into the well-fortified U.S. Embassy in the Egyptian capital. Embassies reporting threats were continuing to operate although in some

cases at reduced levels. The State Department said Americans in those countries "should exercise caution" but it thid not issue travel alerts.

The United States announced a worldwide alert for embassies and other diplomatic installations after the terrorist attacks last week.

Patrick F. Kennedy, the assistant sec-racks in Beirut in 1983. A U.S. official retary of state for administration, said that the United States was "not shutting

down embassies in a permanent sense. The said that since the bombings last week, the department and its overseas posts bad received between one dozen and two dozen threats, including some considered "copy cat" threats.

The closings, Mr. Kennedy said, occurred in "several regions" of the

"We are not leaving," he said. "We are taking, in effect, a brief time-out in order to make the security adjustments that are necessary to be responsive to a

Another State Department official, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said that, where prudent, we're reducing staff, we're moving from one building to another, we're reducing hours."

Bot be insisted that Americans living or traveling abroad would be able to obtain emergency services from all U.S. embassies, regardless of terrorist threats. "You will always be able to get an operator at the embassy and be connected to an a duty officer - 24 hours a

Mr. Kennedy said the embassies had beeo closed at the request of ambas-sadors or, in their absence, the highestranking local U.S. diplomat

We have always said to our chiefs of mission that they are responsible to protect the lives and safety of personnel

overseas." Mr. Kennedy said. He did not describe the threats that had prompted the decision to close some embassies, but he said all were being taken seriously.

The State Department and Congress have faced criticism since the attacks that they failed to provide sufficient security for embassies abroad.

Many of the U.S. diplomatic missions were not given the upgraded security that was recommended by an independent commission after the bombings of the U.S. Embassy and the Marine barat the U.S. Emhassy in Kuala Lumpur, speaking on condition that be not be identified, said that the embassy there had closed its iron gates Tuesday for all but emergency services for U.S. citizens. The official said it would remain closed Wednesday for the embassy compound to be "hardened" against a possible terrorist attack.

State Department officials said that the U.S. Embassy in Uganda, which borders both Kenya and Tanzania, was closed Tuesday but was expected to reopen Wednesday with tightened se-

curity measures in force.

U.S. Balloon Passes Africa

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Steveo Fossett has become the first persoo to cross the South Atlantic in a balloon, putting the American in a good situation, emotionally and in terms of his circle-the-globe loca-tion. His hot-air balloon, Solo Spir-it, came within 105 kilometers (65 miles) of Cape Town, South Africa, on Tuesday.

Mr. Fosseti's west-to-east course just skirted the extreme southern tip of the African continent.

Late Wednesday morning, the halloon was 2,642 kilometers southeast of Cape Town. The ballonn was moving at about 120 ki-lometers per hour as Mr. Fossett approached the 12,550-kilometer mark in his bid to become the first ballonnist to circle the globe.

Mr. Fossett's communications control at Washington University here said the balloon had picked up favorable winds and was drifting across the Indian Ocean.

TRAVEL UPDATE

German Ban on Driving Stops Few

BONN (Reuters) - Four German states - Baden-Wuerttemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Hesse— banned driving for a day on Wednesday as air pollucion levels soared, but so many motorists were exempt that police said traffic was at normal levels.

With unusually high temperatures across Germany, levels of ozone, a polluting gas produced by car emissions, have triggered a health alert.

No Smoking at Greek Monuments

ATHENS (AFP) — Air pollution may endanger the ancient columns of the Acropolis, but unsightly cigarette butts will pile up oo more, thanks to a ban on smoking at Greek

archaeological sites that was announced Wednesday. The law forbids smoking in museums and at archaeological sites, the Culture Ministry said Wednesday, and will be enforced "because of a number of archaeologists' complaints

about cigarette butts oo monuments.' Budapest will get two new bridges and a new ring road under urban renewal plans unveiled this week by city authorities. The bridges will link residential districts on the Buda and the Pest sides of the Danube.

(AFP)

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board urged airlines this week to inspect a fuel-pump control shaft in Pratt & Whitney JT8D engines, used in most Boeing 727s and 737s and McDonnell Douglas DC-9s and MD-80s, after several

WEATHER



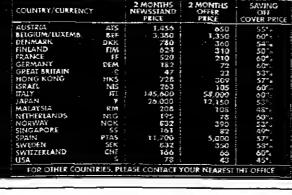
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Latin America

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Texas and Oklahoma Confront the Worst Drought Since the Dust Bowl

By Rick Lyman New York Times Service

HOUSTON - Figuring out how far Lynn Bartlett's erector-set grid of sprinklers can reach as they prvot around his sun-cracked cotton fields along the Salt Fork of the Red River is really not much of a chore.

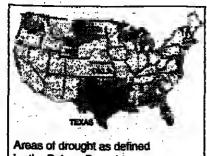
The plants within the irrigated perimeter stand three or four feet (a meter or more) high, thick and bristling with moist green bolls of healthy cotton, some of them as big as apricots. Just beyond the water's reach, though, the plants slouch only a foot (30 centimeters) above the scaly soil and most have just two or three dusty bolls, none

bigger than a table-tenms ball.

This is basically burnt-up cotton,"
Mr. Bartlett said. "We had a good planting rain back in May, then a week or so later the tap just shut off, and it's been off ever since."

While many parts of America, including the Northeast, are suffering through dry weather verging on drought, the situation is particularly severe in Texas and Oklahoma. Just two years after a drought ravaged large swaths of the rich agricultural region, both states are in the midst of a dry spell that officials say may develop into the costliest and most devastating the region has seen since the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s.

There is not a corner of Texas that is not suffering under severe or extreme drought. President Bill Clinton has de-



by the Palmer Drought Severity Index: As of Aug. 1.

Extreme drought Severe drought Moderate drought Near normal to extremely moist

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This is basically burntup cotton. We had a good planting rain back in May, then a week or so later the tap just shut off, and it's been off ever

By Susan Schmidt

and Juliet Eilperin

Washington Post Service

independent counsel Kenneth

Starr could send his long-

awaited report to Congress

within weeks of President

Monday, and it is likely to be

limited to evidence of pos-

sible impeachable acts grow-

ing out of the president's re-

lationship with Monica

Lewinsky, according to

sources familiar with the in-

The report is not expected

to include material related to

Mr. Clinton's past financial

dealings in Arkansas, the so-called Whitewater matter Mr.

Starr has been investigating for four years. Instead, the sources said, it is expected to concentrate entirely on

whether the president lied in the now-dismissed Paula

Jones civil lawsuit about an

affair with Ms. Lewinsky, a

former White House intern,

congressional Democrats

said that a report limited only to the Lewinsky investiga-

tion, and not including ev-

idence of presidential wrong-

doing in other matters, would

be good news for Mr. Clinton,

even if the report contains

damaging evidence. They ar-

gue that the public already has

reached a judgment about Mr.

Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky

"If it's focused on the pres-

ident's private life, it's per-

ilous for the Republicans and

less so for the Democrats," a

White House official said. The official was less confi-

dent about the impact of a

report that provided compel-

ling evidence of obstruction

of justice or subornation of

A congressional Democrat

said "it's a pretty big deal" if the report is limited to wheth-

er Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lew-

insky had a sexual relation-

and is ready to move on.

White House officials and

or orged her to do so.

vestigation.

clared every one of the state's 254 counties a federal disaster area, thus making farmers eligible for low-interest

"The crops have been lost, the livestock has been liquidated, and there's really no relief in sight," said the state agriculture commissioner, Rick Perry. I am starting to bear reports that this is

During crucial growing weeks from April through June, Texas received little measurable rain at all. South Texas, which has suffered worst from the drought, received only 8 percent of normal precipitation. The citrus ranch lands of the Rio Grande Valley received only

Oklahoma received only two-thirds of its normal rainfall from June 1 to Aug. 1, and the southwestern corner of the state received less than one-third. The U.S. agriculture secretary, Dan Glickman, recently declared 66 of Oklahoma's 77 counties, all but the northeast corner of the state, federal disaster areas, and state officials are bearing the same sort of dire reports as in Texas.

the prolonged Southern drought and other weather problems to cut the cotton crop nationwide by 24 percent from last year's level, the Associated Press reported Wednesday from Washington. [Farmers had already planted less

[The Agriculture Department expects

cotton because of a three-year decline in prices. But extreme heat and lack of rain in Texas, by far the top cotton-pro-ducing state, bas slashed this year's

expected harvest there by 40 percent from last year's level. About 1.9 million acres (770,000 hectares) of cotton have been abandoned in Texas, about 37 percent of the land planted there this year.

[Overall, the cotton harvest is estimated at 14.3 million 480-pound (218kilogram) bales, compared to 18.3 million bales a year ago.]

"All agribusiness is very much affected," said the Oklahoma agriculture commissioner, Dennis Howard. "The ag dollar goes around Main Street six, seven, eight times, but it's not going around now, because it's not there. Small town Oklahoma is really burt-

ing."
Officials in Texas have estimated that the drought will cost farmers and rancbers \$1.8 billion, and will result in a \$4.9 billion drain on the state's overall economy. In Oklahoma, officials last week predicted a total statewide cost of \$2

But Texas and Oklahoma have changed a great deal since the Dust Bowl years. They have grown more urban and more economically diverse, particularly in the last two decades. So even though the drought could ruin farmers, cattle ranchers, small towns and agriculture-related businesses, the overall economy of the region may sur-

Both Jared Hazelton, the director of the Center for Business and Economic Analysis at Texas A&M University, and Bernard Weinstein, the director of the Center for Economic Development at

Democrats See Bright Side of Starr's Awaited Report

the University of North Texas, have said that the drought will not have as dire an effect as some are predicting. That is because, they say, agriculture accounts for only about 1 percent of the \$641 billion Texas economy, even though Texas has one-eighth of the tilled farmland in America.

"The wonderful thing about the growth in the '90s is it isn't tied to a single-sector economy," Mr. Hazelton said. "There is no dominant industry."

Economists say that while the drought will inevitably affect prices at supermarkets all over the country, it is too early to say which products will be affected and how much more expensive they will be.

Even in Oklahoma, where agriculture remains the leading industry, the economy has thus far been able to withstand the drought's impact. "Now, thank goodness. Oklahoma's economy is more diversified than it was," Mr. Howard, the agriculture commissioner, said. "The whole state isn't being impacted like it was during the drought in 1982, when we really went into a nosedive."

Even without such a nosedive this year, agriculture officials say, the drought will still be crushing to those corners of the region where agriculture remains supreme. In rural Texas and small town Oklaboma, they say, busi-nesses will close, tens of thousands of jobs will be lost, cattle herds will be affected for years to come and nervous bankers will refuse to lend money to

more and more struggling farmers.

In metropolitan cities, the impact will be felt in consumer prices and in those businesses connected to agriculture," said Carl Anderson, an agricultural economist at Texas A&M. "But the real impact will be felt in smaller farm communities, and it's going to be devastating. They're going to have problems collecting taxes to keep open their schools. It's going to speed up the drying up of these small, rural com-

A \$500 million federal aid package is in a House-Senate conference committee, but agriculture officials in Texas and Oklahoma are complaining because half of that money is earmarked for farmers in the Dakotas and Minnesota. Mr. Glickman, the federal agriculture secretary, told officials during his recent swing through the region that he wanted the total raised to \$1 billion, maybe more.

On Priday, Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma and the governors of South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska met to issue 22 emergency and long-term proposals for drought relief.

Truman Zybach raises cattle on 1,700 acres in southwestern Oklahoma and across the Texas line. On his 900-acre ranch in Oklahoma, he said, he would normally have 700 head of cattle at this time of year. But last Friday, with no grass in the fields for the cattle to eat and little hay available in the markets, Zybach packed up four truckloads and sold them off, leaving him with only 50 or 60 cows. 'There's no green grass at all," Zybach said. "We're plum out of green grass."

POLITICAL

Scandal Dims a Clinton Gain

WASHINGTON — In 1992, with the economy sput-tering and millions of Americans johless, Bill Clinton traveled the country promising to put people back to work, in part by trying to "streamline the confusing array of publicly funded training programs" into a far more belpful system for new and dislocated workers

It was an idea close to his heart, yet one that proved clusive until finally, six years later, he and congressional leaders crafted a compromise and joined together in the Rose Garden last week to sign the Workforce Investment

Which raises a classic Washington question: If a bill becomes law in the midst of a presidential sex scandal, does anyone hear?

As it turns out, the answer is: not really. There is a sense of frustration, resignation, even sadness, as White House aides talk about what happened to the job-training bill and how it got lost in the backdraft of

the Monica Lewinsky investigation. For some, it is symptomatic of where the second Clinton term is going. Little seems to be getting done in the capital these days and when it does, it barely causes a ripple in the public consciousness.

World to President: Don't Quit

Fifty-eight percent of people around the world say President Bill Clinton should not resign even if he had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, according to a survey of 17,761 people in 32 countries conducted by a Canadian pollster.

Only 29 percent of those polled said he should quit. according to the Angus Reid Group. The survery found an extraordinary 92 percent awareness worldwide of the allegations against Mr. Clinton, with more than 90 percent in 21 of the countries. Germans led with 99 percent awareness of the Clinton situation. In Denmark, 80 percent think he should not resign. Almost as many agree in

Quote/Unquote

Mitchell Johnson, 14, speaking in court after he was found guilty of killing four of his classmates and a teacher in a shooting spree at a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas: really thought that no one would actually be hurt. I thought we would just shoot over everyone's head. When the shooting started, we were not shooting at anybody or any group of people in particular." (AP)

Away From Politics

 A sharp earthquake hit Northern California, swaying buildings in downtown San Francisco and disrupting commuter trains. The tremor measured 5.3 on the open ended Richter scale.

 A U.S. Air Force Titan 4A rocket exploded less than a minute after blastoff from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Wednesday. The Lockheed Martin Corp.-built rocket was carrying a top-secret satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, the air force said.

was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for murdering Ennis Cosby, 27, the son of the

In Boston Turnabout,

A Ukrainian-born immigrant, Mikail Markhasev, 19, standing by her man, and has been de-termined to do exactly that. Some people in the Hamptons at the beginning of the comedian Bill Cosby, in a botched robbety. (Reuters) Continued from Page 1 Asa Hutchinson, Republican of Arkan-

Columnist to Keep Job

By Howard Kurtz WASHINGTON - Mike Barnicle, the star Boston Globe columnist, can keep his job after all, the newspaper said in an

embarrassing turnaround amid growing public pressure. Just six days after demanding Mr. Barnicle's resignation, the Globe decided Tuesday not to end a 25-year career of touch the state of t tough-guy prose that had become part of the paper's identity. Instead, the Globe's editor, Matthew Storin, suspended Mr. Barnicle for two months without pay for using several jokes from a book by the cornedian George Carlin without at-

the publisher for putting the newspaper in this terribly awkward position due to my own personal sloppiness."

The paper has been under siege from Mr. Barnicle's supporters. Thousands of readers called the Globe on his behalf. And a major Globe advertiser, the office supply chain Staples, as first lady. ifired off a letter of complaint to the publisher.

Mr. Storm insisted that the reader and advertiser pressure

had "absolutely not" influenced his decision. "But there were divisions, some of them racial, in the Globe newsroom. Less than two months ago, Mr. Storin successfully press releases never could. sought the resignation of Patricia Smith, a black columnist who admitted fabricating parts of four columns.

WASHINGTON — The told the grand jury last week that she and the president ANALYSIS discussed "cover sto-Bill Clinton's testimony on

relationship secret. Sources

have said that Ms. Lewinsky

ries" to disguise the relationship but that he did not directly tell her to lie in the The arrival of a narrowly

focused report on Capitol Hill would threaten the election- members of both parties, as year game plans of Repub- well as White House licans and Democrats and strategists, anticipate that the would set off a legal and polit-report's findings could quickly

will soon have to map out procedures for handling Mr. Starr's report, and they say they will change House rules after they return from their summer recess in an effort to maintain the secrecy of the grand jury evidence when the Starr report is received. But

Congressional Republicans



what Mr. Clinton said to Ms. party seems fully prepared. partisan and acrimonious de-mation ... that may constitute pass a resolution to amend its Lewinsky about keeping the Only White House strategists bate that could complicate efappear anxious to see the matforts to handle the material in ter move from the grand jury room to Capitol Hill.

an orderly fashion. Mr. Starr's report, which has been in preparation for months but whose final form likely will be affected by the president's testimony to the grand jury on Monday, is not expected to contain conclusions or recommendations to lawmakers. Instead, the sources said, it will be a presentation of evidence about Mr. Clinton's conduct in the Jones lawsnit.

The report is expected to lay out the evidence against the president and the procedures used to gather it, along with voluminous supporting material such as grand jury transcripts, physical and docu-mentary evidence, and the secret tape recordings made by Linda Tripp of her conver-sations with Ms. Lewinsky.

The bulk of the evidence Mr. Starr has assembled relates to whether Mr. Clinton lied under oath when he denied a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky in his depositioo Jan. 17 in the Jones aged ber to provide false testimony. Mr. Clinton was asked about other women in the Jones deposition, and the lawyers said the report could also include an examination of that testimony.

Faced with the prospect of receiving a report from Mr. Starr earlier than they bad anticipated, House members are taking tentative steps to prepare for a review of the allegations against the president. Democrats are explicitly preparing for battle, baving just hired a seasoned defender of accused politicians as their lead counsel on the House Judiciary Committee, while Republicans are working assiduously to avoid appearing eager for a full-fledged impeachment inquiry.

Under the independent counsel law, Mr. Starr would transmit to the House "any substantial and credible infor-

ship and "the gray areas" of Bill Clinton being greeted on Wednesday by his dog. MRS. CLINTON: Winning Respect for 'Standing by Her Man'

sas. "It's inexplicable."

Another Arkansas Republican, Representative Jay Dickey, was harsher. 'It man said, "I think that the first lady has is sad and unfortunate that Arkansas is handled this whole set of attacks with depicted by the first lady as a backward state, worthy of ridicule and prejudice,"
Mr. Dickey said. "It would be much
better if the first lady would make a
mature and responsible assessment of the situation and not blame us Arkansans for their troubles."

The Republican pollster Ed Goeas was the right-wing conspiracy. Now it's and others on the Lewinsky matter. the chicken-wing conspiracy.

But no one disputes that Mrs. Clinton has swayed a number of Americans, especially women, over to her side in the past eight months. According to a CBS infamous dress? Does she advise him on News poll conducted July 19 through what to say? July 21, 50 percent of those surveyed said they held a favorable opinion of "Frankly, I'm persuaded by the argument that the punishment didn't fit the crime," Mr. Storin said at a news
conference with Mr. Barnicle, 54, at his side.
'I apologized to Mart," Mr. Barnicle said, "I apologized to
'I apologized to Mart," Mr. Barnicle said, "I apologized to
'I apologized to Mart," Mr. Barnicle said, "I apologized to
'I apologized to Mart," Mr. Barnicle said, "I apologized to

after six years, people are starting to like Clinton's former press secretary, said on Mrs. Clinton and her reconfigured role the ABC news program "This Week."

Others point directly at Ms. Lewin-said that people still discounted one sky, and say that the public sympathizes thing when they looked at Mrs. Clinton's with Mrs. Clinton and that has softened relationship with the president. ber image in a way that speeches and

"She's the best person they can put out love with him." there," Mr. Goeas said. "She's kind of

feel sorry for her. Some respect her. It's probably a combination of both."

grace and intelligence and wit, and people admire that."
There is no doubt that Mrs. Clinton's

legal background, and her own experience as a subpoensed witness before Mr. Starr's Whitewater grand jury, makes her one of the president's most valuable strategists. In fact, she is said to be dicould not resist joking, saying: "First, it rectly involved in meetings with lawyers

But the private Mrs. Clinton has remained steadfastly elusive. How does she broach the subject of Ms. Lewinsky with her busband? Do they talk about the

The answers are all subject to speculation, but little else. "I think at best this is an extremely

difficult time and I think the president and Mrs. Clinton are probably communicpport for Mrs. Clinton.

Some political consultants say that David Kendall," Dee Dee Myers, Mr. rector for the campaign committee. Another former White House aide

former aide said. "She is so deeply in

At a fund-raiser at the home of the people."

month, an ebullient Mrs. Clinton got the crowd fired up for her busband, then The Democratic pollster Mark Mell- gave him a bug before he took the microphone.

Mrs. Clinton's staff said she thrives on her public appearances, especially when she is talking about children's issues, health care and the encroaching millennium. "She believes that if you spend one day pacing around the White House, that's one day you are not doing something to advance the agenda of the president," said Neel Lattimore, Mrs.

Clinton's former press secretary.

This year, she approached the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and offered to attend a number of fund-raisers for House and Senate candidates, many of them challengers facing uphill battles. She has attended six fundraisers since June and is expected to attend several more over the next few weeks.

Besides the president, who tends in do more fund-raising for the national party committee, she is in the most demand of any other Democratic official." said Dan Sallick, communications di-

Lydia Spottswood, a Wisconsin candidate for the House, said Mrs. Clinton's wifely travails had certainly played a said that people still discounted one hand in her popularity.

"There but for the grace of God," Ms. Spottswood said. "Any woman could "That woman is wild for him," the find herself with unwelcomed rumors. She has dealt with it with so much dignity and grace, it has resonated with

grounds for an impeach-Then, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, would be expected to refer the report to the Judiciary Committee where the first step, according to Republicans, would be a preliminary review of the evidence submitted by Mr. Starr. Only after that could

move to seek House approval for a formal impeachment proceeding.
Republicans and Democrats recognize that once they receive a report from Mr. Starr, they must take steps to

evaluating whether it merits an impeachment inquiry.

Republican Party leaders

fidential because congressional documents are usually accessible to all 435 members. The same measure could define the requirements for issning subpoenas and granting immunity to witnesses. But Democrats are already

warning that if the majority denies them input into the decision-making, it could run the risk of a political conflict over the process.

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Clinton supporters are bracing for a partisan battle. "This will be a very partisan report," said Rahm Emanuel, a senior adviser. "Regardless keep the contents secret while of its contents, people know that anything that bears Ken Starr's imprint is anything but The House will need to objective."

AMERICAN TOPICS

Hagers-Town Almanack Offers Advice, Weather Forecasts and a Family Tradition

It may not be quite as well-known as Poor Richard's Almanac, first published in 1733 by Benjamin Franklin, or as the Farmer's Almanac, but the Hagers-Town Almanack, a slice of pure Americana, has been published by

the same family longer than any of its rivals. Started in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1797 by one J. Gruber, it began like other almanacs as an aid to rural folk, especially farmers, who often came to rely on its longrange weather forecasts to manage their crops, reports The Sun of Baltimore.

Some still do. The Almanack, now published by Charles Fisher, 81, the great-great-great- - no one is quite sure bow many greats — grandson of J. Gruber, still offers enough good sense about the weather, farming and life in general, that 150,000 people a year slap \$2.25 down

on the counter for it. Mr. Fisher, who lives in rural Vermont, takes special pride in having rather precisely predicted the fierce winter storms of 1993-94 (the predictions are based not on the behavior of woolly worms but on the observatious of generations of farmers, and the position of the moon; Mr. Fisher, incidentally, sees a fairly average winter ahead). Readers seem drawn to the glorified picture of a simpler America the Almanack presents, with its emphasis on decency and hard work. They also love the bits of every-day wisdom: "An oil can works better than a wrench," or

plant a little Epsom salt with your tomatoes." The Almanack eventually will pass on to his son Charles, "I'd like to think it will go on in perpetuity,"

says Charles.
"But I doubt that. We've kept np pretty good with the times, but it's not full of sensationalism. It's full of good

Short Takes

Less than two decades ago, the Mashantucket Pequot Indians were barely getting by, bolding tribal meetings in a cramped trailer. This week, the now-wealthy tribe, using profits from its Foxwoods Resort Casino, near Ledyard Connecticut, paid tribute to those difficult times by opening a \$193 million museum to bonor their history The museum includes life-size dioramas of Indian life, including a caribon hunt and a Pequot fort with a running

The long-scattered tribe began moving back to the reservation territory in rural Connecticut in the 1970s, and embarked on a series of ill-fated economic ventures, from making maple syrup to raising pigs. Then came the jackpot. The tribe's Foxwoods casino was to grow until it became one of the world's most profitable.

A Duke University survey of 4,000 North Carolinians

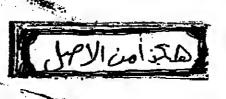
has found that those who participated in religious activities were 40 percent less likely to have high blood pressure. The effect appeared strongest in blacks and people between 65 and 75. Earlier research found that religious people are less depressed, have healthier immune systems and deal better with addictions than the nonreligious. It started when Mayor Jim Whitaker of North Platte,

Nebraska, hoping to draw attention to an uncontrolled pet population, offered to walk naked through the city's streets during a festival in September if donors gave at least \$5,000 to the Humane Society by then.

But after the story got national attention and complaints came in about the mayor's dubious taste, Mr. Whitaker has said that he was misunderstood.

The mayor now says that the plan all along was to walk a dog named "Naked" down the street, "Everybody bought it," said Mr. Whitaker - who will make the walk fully clothed.

Brian Knowlton



ASIA/PACIFIC

China Convicts 'Spies' and Again Angers Taiwan

By Michael Laris zshington Post Service

BEIJING - A Chinese court convicted four Taiwan businessmen of spy-

ing on Wednesday. It was the second incident in two weeks and bas emerged as a potential roadblock to efforts on both sides to resume a dialogue across one of the world's most strategically sensitive wa-

The court sentenced one of the men to a four-year prisoo term but said the other three would be exempted from punishment "for performing meritorious services to atone for their crimes." according to the official Xinhua press

agency. Xinhua did oot describe the "meritorious services" the three men provided, but they are expected to be

The Taiwanese press has been critical of their arrest, which occurred in March, and of the murder of a Taiwan politician in China last month. Oppositioo lawmakers in Taiwan have used both epis-

odes as justification for rejecting the possibility of uniting with China.

Both the convictions and the murder come at a sensitive time as the two sides have taken tentative steps toward re-surning talks suspended in 1995 when President Lee Teng-bui of Taiwan vis-ited the United States to speak at his alma mater, Cornell University.

In response to Mr. Lee's journey, China undertook two sets of provocative military exercises during which it shot cruise missiles within miles of the island. The United States responded by sending two aircraft carrier battle

groups to the Taiwan Strait.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official said last month that Taiwan should 'face reality" and discuss political reunification in upcoming talks, which both sides say could occur as early as this fall. China made the statement after President Bill Clinton said in Shanghai following his summit meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China that the United States would not support any formal independence bid by Taiwan. Mr. Clinton also said the United States would withhold its support for Taiwan's efforts to join international bodies for which statehood is a prerequisite.

Last mooth, in a defense white paper, China reiterated its position that it will attack Taiwan if the island of 21 million

people declares independence. The circumstances of the espionage case remain unclear. Xinhua said that Kon Jianming, who was given the fouryear jail term, and the three other men, Chen Shaoyu, Han Yueting and Zhon Changming, "illegally entered the mainland and engaged in political, economic and military espionage between June of 1993 and March of 1998."

In May, Xinhua said the men had 'admitted' their crimes. Taiwanhas denied involvement.

In the other case, a Taiwan legislator, Lin Ti-chuan, was killed in oortheast China during a hotched kidnapping.

Some in Korean Prisons Choose to Stay

Pledge Required for Release Irks Political Captives Who See Link to Past

By Don Kirk

SEOUL — Abont 20 of the longest-serving political prisoners in South Korean prisons will not walk to freedom with the more than 100 "prisoners of conscience" whom the government plans to release on Saturday, leaders of buman rights groups said Wednesday.

Led by 69-year-old Woo Yong Gak, in prison for 40 years, they are refusing to sign a pledge to abide by South Korean laws, according to activists fighting for their unconditional release.

'Prisoners of conscience think it's the same as the old system when they were asked to sign statements of 'conversion' from communism," said Ob Wan Ho, director of Amnesty International in South Korea, "This system does oot meet international human rights standards."

The refusal of many prisoners of conscience to sign the pledge poses a major embarrassment for President Kim Dae Jung as he prepares to offer clemency to several thousand prisoners of all types. The clemency, including pardons for about 1,650 prisoners and release on parole for another 2,100, is intended to

contribute to celebrations marking the fect means that the new pledge is merely 50th anniversary on Saturday of the a refurbished version of the old one. 50th anniversary on Saturday of the founding of the Republic of Korea.

"When we are granting people am-oesty, we are releasing them oo the promise they are not going to break the law again," said Yang Jae Taek, spokesman for the Ministry of Justice. We are going to keep up responsible law enforcement in terms of our na-

Mr. Yang said 103 political prisoners had signed the pledge, which was not required of other types of prisoners.

For many prisoners of conscience, the requirement that they sign a pledge harks back to the era of quasi-military dictatorship when thousands of political prisoners had to agree to almost a religious "conversion" from belief in communism to support of the government as a prerequisite for freedom.

Mr. Kim, who spent about eight years in prison as a political prisoner under dictatorial regimes in the 1970s and early 1980s, abolished the conversion requirement as one of his first acts after his inauguratioo in February.

But to critics, the fact that a national security law stringently outlawing any pro-communist activity remains in ef-

This statement is Kim Dae Jung's idea," said Yu Eun Sook, human rights educatioo officer for the Sarangbang Group for Human Rights, representing a wide range of social causes. "It's because the government does not want to be criticized by the right wing."

Advocates for the unconditional re-

lease of the prisoners point out that Mr. Kim included 74 prisoners of conscience in a mass clemency in March without requiring them to sign a document.

At the top of the list of those previously expected to walk out of prisoo on Saturday was Mr. Woo, sent from North to South Korea after the Korean War and later arrested as a spy. He has contended that he was merely exchanging informatioo between people in the South and the North but has spent most of his life since then in solitary confinement in a tiny cell in Taejon, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) sonth of Seoul.

Among those who are likely to leave prison are former military officers involved in the rise to power of Chun Doo Hwan, the military leader who seized power in 1980 and imprisoned Mr. Kim, accusing him of treason.



BRIEFLY

BATTLING CHINA'S FLOODS — Residents of Jiujiang carrying rocks to load on boats Wednesday. The rocks were being delivered to dikes needing reinforcement against the high waters of the Yangtze.

EUROPE

Hunger and Disease Imperil Kosovo Refugees

By Mike O'Connor New York Times Service

CIREZ, Yugosłavia — Two large cargo trucks eased through the throngs of refugees in this blocklong village in the mountains of Kosovo.

Stopping at a decrepit, empty building, the drivers unlashed the cargo covers and tossed them to one side. Instantly, dozens of men grabbed the 50kilogram (110-pound) sacks of flour from the trucks and stacked them

The gaunt men, covered with a floury grime, were told to wait for their fam-

ily's portion. But international relief officials here said that even if there were enough food in this Tuesday delivery for all the people who have fled war to take refuge in the villages and forests nearby, it would not last long.

They said they did oot know when

they could come back with more.

Despite what they insist were their best efforts, foreign governments were oot able to prevent the Yugoslav government's recent military offensive against ethnic Albanian rebels.

Now, international aid agencies say they are not able to provide for the

refugees. Since the offensive began in late June, with Serbian artillery attacks against villages in areas controlled by the rebels, civilians have emptied large sections of Kosovo.

But relief officials say they still have

only a general ootion of bow many refugees there are or what their physical condition is or even which villages have been evacuated.

"There's a sketchy overview of what's going on," said Mons Nyberg, a spokesman for the UN High Commis-

sioner for Refugees. "This came on so fast that the in-

ternational community was noprepared There is no other way to describe it than piecemeal," said an international aid official. "We hear about a group of people - maybe it's thousands of

people - we throw some kind of supply coovoy together and we take them what 'I am sure we are not doing nearly

enough, bot since no one knows how many people we're oot helping, I can't tell you how much more we should be

At the other end of this village where the flour is stored, at a fly-specked medical clinic with broken windows, dozens

BRIEFLY

of patients stood in sweltering rooms waiting to see the doctor.

Nearby, water and sanitation experts were inspecting a well. They were from Oxfam, a nooprofit relief organization. The well is being used by refugees crammed into the local school.

The well was adequate for the families who lived here, officials say, but now the water level is dropping fast. Refugees hauled up the water bucket

and passed it around, each drinking from it or pouring water into plastic

With overcrowded and primitive living conditions, there is increasing fear Children and the elderly are suffering

from intestinal diseases already, doctors from relief agencies said. The Oxfam experts said that with some effort, they think they can rig up a

more reliable and sanitary way to dis-tribute water. But that would be for the 360 people now living in the school. The best estimates are that 80,000

people have been displaced by the current military offensive, and many of them are oowbere oear a well.

Higher up in the monotains, two refugee children whose families are living in the open carried plastic bottles to

a muddy stream where other children were bathing alongside cattle.

About 90 percent of the residents of Kosovo Province in Serbia are ethic Albanians. The government carried out its most recent offensive to recapture areas taken as the rebels gained support among Kosovo residents.

As government military forces have advanced, homes and sometimes whole villages have been set oo fire. Fear of the Serbs keeps most

refugees from going bome. International aid officials say they do oot have the staff in Kosovo to respond properly, and most say they do not ex-

pect to get much help. Before the current offensive, the United Nations said there were at least 167,000 refugees in Kosovo. With the estimated 80,000 oew refugees, the total is well over 10 percent of the province's population.

'I've got so much work here I'm shattered - I am dead," said Mick Lorentzen, the only staff employee of the UN World Food Program in Kosovo. Mr. Lorentzen said two additional employees had been assigned but have not been granted visas by the Yugoslav government.

With his family living under plastic sheets covered with tree branches to provide camouflage and protection from the sun, Abedin Makolli, 24, said on Tuesday: "We live like primitive people, but we cannot go home because it is too dangerous. We have moved three times since we left home because the army keeps coming. But we cannot

Serbs' Attack Traps Civilians

stronghold, trapping thousands of ci-vilians and fighters. The Associated Press reported from Pristina, capital of

The attack against the village of Junik, oear the Albanian border, came after a three-week Serbian siege of one of the main bases for Kosovo Liberation Army, ethnic Albanian sources said. President Slobodan Milosevic of

Yugoslavia has personally guaranteed to European Union envoys that Junik, where about 1,000 guerrillas and as many civilians are believed to be trapped, would not be attacked.

The Kosovo Information Center. close to the Albanian leadership, appealed to the international community to help in forming a safe corridor for the civilians.

Thousands of ethnic Albanians remain on the run in Kosovo, international aid officials warned Wednesday, as Serb forces battled rebels for control of a region near the Albanian border.

remain in local hands. Pakistan Asks India For Kashmir Gesture

Coalition in Turmoil

WELLINGTON - New Zeal-

and's 19-month-old center-right goveroment was in turmoil and its future in doubt Wednesday after five min-

isters from the junior coalition party walked out of a cabinet meeting.

"It is my intention to continue in minority government," Prime Min-

ister Jenny Shipley told reporters after

the cabinet meeting failed to resolve

differences between her conservative

National Party and the nationalist

New Zealand First Party of Deputy

Prime Minister and Treasurer Win-

sell the government's 66 percent

stake in the capital's airport, worth

New Zealand First, which cam-

paigned in the 1996 general election

against asset sales, opposed the plan and was pressing for assurances that

at least 51 percent of the airport would

about 100 million New Zealand dol-

ston Peters.

lars (\$50 millioo).

In New Zealand

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Naważ Sharif asked India on Wednesday to make a 'major and substantive gesture'' toward a settlement of the dispute between the two rival neighbors over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Mr. Sharif, in a message read at a seminar in Muzaffarabad, capital of the Pakistan-controlled part of the region, proposed that India start by withdrawing a "sizable portion" of political prisoners, and open talks with Kashmiri leaders and with Pakistao.

India, which is fighting a separatist revolt in the two-thirds of Kashmir it controls, has said it is ready to discuss the problem bilaterally.

Pakistan has sooght international

mediation on the issue, saying decades of bilateral talks have led nowhere in Kashmir.

Wednesday's seminar in Muzaf-farabad marked the 50th anniversary of a UN resolution that had envisioned a plebiscite for predominantly Muslim Kashmiris to decide wbether to join Islamic Pakistan or Hindumajority India. (Reuters)

on Peters. National Party ministers want to 2 Officers Convicted In Jakarta Shooting

itary court Wednesday found two police officers guilty of disobeying or-ders by telling their men to fire warning shots into the air during an anti-government university demoostratioo in May.

Four students were subsequently shot to death at the demonstration at ! Jakarta's Trisakti University oo May 12, sparking widespread riots that helped to topple President Suharto from power nine days later. One of the officers was sentenced to 10 months in jail, the second to a four-month

For the Record

Flash floods and mud slides in South Korea have left 391 people dead or missing and caused at least \$312 millioo in damage, the national disaster agency said in Seoul as rain its troops in the area, free Kashmiri returned to the southeast. (Reuters)

flight commander, Sergei Avdeyev, and Gennadi Padalka, an engineer. It will approach the Mir on Saturday, but may Kohl Softens on a Coalition Backed by heavy artiflery, Serbian encounter problems with the statioo's docking system, forces launched a fierce attack Wed-nesday against a major ethnic Albanian known as Kurs, which has malfunctioned in receot days. Kurs appeared to be operational again on Tuesday and Wednesday, said a Mission Control spokesman. If Kurs fails, Mr. Avdeyev, the Soyuz flight commander,

BONN- Chancellor Helmut Kohl seemed to soften a bit Wednesday on the possibility of his party's joining the main opposition in a "grand coalitioo" after national elections.

the scenario increasingly likely in recent weeks, Mr. Kohl, who is seeking a fifth term, has until oow categorically ruled out participating in such a coalition after the Sept. 27 vote.

first time that he would step down as Christian Democratic party chief if he lost, clearing the way for his parliamentary faction leader. Wolfgang Schaeuble, to take the reins.

he did oot think his Social Democratic challenger, Gerhard Schroeder, would reach a position to negotiate such a partnership.

Christian Democrats if coalition talks with the environmentalist Greens did not work out.

optimism that voters would turn to his 'In July 2,313 people arrived in Sicily from North Africa. In the last eight days there were only 154," Mr. Napolitano said. "The arrivals are decreasing, there's own center-right coalition in the final weeks, and he promised a 30 billion mark (\$17 billion) tax cut to combat unemployment if reelected.

form would improve Germany's busioess climate and aid in fighting unemployment, the core issue in this year's election campaign. Mr. Schroeder has sought to steer his

party toward a "oew center," even suggesting last week be could work with the Christian Democrats on tax reform after the election. With seven weeks left before the gen-eral election, pollsters said on Wed-nesday that the likelihood of a grand

coalioon was growing as the opposition's lead in polls diminished. Fewer German voters expect that the

elections will bring a change of government, according to the latest polls. This sentiment is supported by a drop in support for Mr. Schroeder.

In July the number of German voters who expected the Social Democrats to win the election sunk to less than half from nearly two-thirds in June, according to findings by the Allensbach Institut, which were published in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. The poll has a margin of error of 2.5 per-

Mr. Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats more than 10 points behind Mr. Schroeder's Social Democrats... The number of Germans expecting the econ-

As Opposition's Lead Shrinks 🥻 Mr. Kohl maintains that such a re-

While political analysts have called

But on Wednesday be said for the

And instead of saying a "grand coalition" was out of the question, he said

Mr. Schroeder, who has a slim lead in the polls, has said he would turn to the

But Mr. Kohl continued to express

But the survey still put support for

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Reighten Border Standoff isolated in the same talks for and a same talks for an analysis and a same talks for a same talks for an analysis and a same talks for an analysis and a same talks for a same talks for an analysis and a same talks for a same talks for an analysis and a same talks for a s properties and remain as a second of the sec The best of the state of the st

Trapani were freed after a month in a detention center Opposition politicians have slammed the way the Under the new law, in force for just over a month, and given an unsupervised two weeks to leave Italy omy to improve bas meanwhile outimmigrants are held in detention centers for 30 days government has handled the crisis, calling for illegal 'We're on a good path," Mr. Kohl oumbered those expecting it to get worse for the first time in three years.

Thirty-one percent of those polled the first of hundreds of clandestini expected to be said at a news conference to present the and are seot home as soon as they are identified. Those immigrants to be tattooed to identify them or to be held in centers for longer periods to give authorities more final planks - on economics and imwho are oot identified are freed after a month but The media have spoken of a state-sanctioned "great ordered to leave. time to deal with them. migration — in his campaign platform. Promising "security, dependability and stability," Mr. Kohl said his government would again take up proposals said they expected the economy to improve in the next six months, while 2 Criticism has even come from supporters of Prime Minister Romano Prodi. Giorgio La Malfa, head of the Critics charge that despite the center-left governescape" of some 600 immigrants over the coming days. But officials insisted there was oo cause for ment's promises to get tough on illegal immigration, percent said it would get worse. In July alarm, saying a large number of the approximately the new law allows "clandestini" to vanish easily in Republican Party, has said that Italy's failure to coopessimists had outnumbered optimists by 30 percent to 28 percent, with the remainder undecided. (AP, Reuters) to lower tax rates immediately after the 3,000 immigrants who have flooded Italy's southern other parts of the European Union. trol immigration could threaten the 10-nation Schen-Most who have arrived recently are from North shores since a new law took force last mooth had

Africa - tantalizingly close to sonthern Italy - but

others from Turkey, Iraq, Albania, Sri Lanka and

Pakistan have also been detained.

no need for alarmism.'

mink, but daily reports of pets being slaughtered by the mink have hampered the animal rights cause. Russian Grain Projections Fall MOSCOW - Russia will oot import foreign grain this

Britain Declares War on Mink

LONDON — A killing frenzy swept Britain after animal rights activists freed 6,000 mink from a fur farm.

with dustbins - any weapon that comes to hand - have

been scouring the southern England countryside, saying the

Liberation Front claimed responsibility for freeing the

Some 4,000 mink have been nabbed so far. The Animal

animals pose a threat to humans and wildlife.

Farmers with guns, housewives with shovels, children

Grain yields in 1998 are estimated to total between 62 million and 67 million metric tons, the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the minister of food and agriculture, Viktor Semyonov, as saying. The estimate was lower than the 70 million tons predicted just two weeks ago.

The deputy prime minister, Boris Nemtsov, was quoted

as saying that Russia will nonetheless be able to avoid making emergency grain purchases abroad.

In France, Cohabitation Wrinkles

three days.

bombarded with postcards protesting a draft law that critics say is a smokscreen for gay marriages. couple living together, whether gay or beterosexual, to enjoy most of the social and fiscal rights currently granted to married people. Despite its Catholic past, France has

from the change in status. The postcards were printed by an ultraconservative group called The Future of Culture, which branded the plan as 'an extremist ideological project that aims to destroy the family,

the foundation of French society." In addition, thousands of French mayors have signed a petition saying they are worried about being asked to

Italy Grapples With Restrictions on Immigration

already been identified and would be expelled.

The minister of interior, Giorgio Napolitano, said

on Tuesday that more than 500 immigrants of some

1,000 presumed Moroccan or Tunisian citizens cur-

rently held in Sicilian centers had been identified by

Tunisian authorities. It is "oot true," he said, that 600

or 1,000 illegal immigrants are about to be released.

The Socialist-sponsored legislation would allow any more than 2 million unmarried couples who would benefit

manned ship, the Soyuz, which is scheduled to arrive in

Baturin, a politician and former presidential adviser, the

can dock the ship manually, but the procedure is more

The Soyuz will carry a three-man crew, including Yuri

nesday to prepare the space station Mir for docking with a

ROME— Italy began releasing illegal immigrants

from detention centers on Wednesday after failing to

identify them for repatriation, but ministers played

down fears they would head straight for other parts of

released in coming days.

More than 50 immigrants in the Sicilian towo of

MOSCOW -- Cosmonauts decoupled a cargo ship Wedofficiate at gay marriages.

Mir Readied for Docking

year, despite a severe summer drought that has damaged one-third of its crop, officials said Wednesday. PARIS — The French prime minister's office is being

Albania-CIA Intrigue Suggests Possible Link to Embassy Bombings

By R. Jeffrey Smith Washington Post Service

TIRANA, Albania — A raid conducted in late June by security personnel from the United States and Albania against an alleged cell of an Islamic Washington's fingerprints off the opterrorist organization evidently went off eration had died. Osama bin Laden were arrested in Tirana by the Albanians, and the Amer-

By Raymond Bonner

New York Times Service NAIROBI - Trembling and choking

back tears, the American ambassador, Prudence Bushnell, scattered red roses

on rubble during a memorial ceremony

late this afternoon for the victims of the

bombing of the U.S. Embassy.

Men and women of the international

rescue units stood silently in a three-

sided square to pay their respects at the site where they had been laboring through tons of wreckage around the

clock for the last six days. The Israeli

forms, French and Americans in blue

jumpsuits, Kenyan soldiers in camon-

flage green.
On the day when the search and rescue

stitches removed from her lip Wednes-

'We were shedding blood. Blood was

day, appeared on Kenyan news pro-

blood," Ambassador Bushnell said in an

interview taped this morning. "We were

rescuing people. People are people.

There was oo discrimination between

race, religion or ethnic group. We were

trying to get as many people out as we possibly could."

anger is very, very understandable."

She added, "The fact that there is

Some of the Kenyan anger appears to

reflect a lack of understanding about the mission of U.S. Marines in protecting

the embassy, as well as pent-up anger

over Washington's criticisms of the

Kenyan government's corruption and

stands at 247, the Kenyan government

said on Wednesday. That total includes

The total of deaths from the blast

the absence of a liberal democracy.

grams to answer the charges.

rescue workers were in olive drab uni- erty."

statement about the CIA's prominent U.S. intelligence officials have quietly role in its planning, to the largest-circulation Albanian newspaper. By the pursue the matter, according to local suspect Mr. bin Laden may have struck groups, a U.S. official said. time a second raid was conducted two weeks later, in which two more suspects

U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and subsequently turned over to anti-has provoked officials in Tirana and terrorist officials in Egypt.

The FBI refused to say anything about the progress of its investigation into the

Many Kenyans feel the Kenyan cas-

ualty list would have been shorter if the Americans had been as concerned about .

them as they were about protecting

American lives and protecting the em-

saving lives," said Charity Ngilu, a leader of the opposition Social Democratic

Party and presidential candidate in last December's election. They were more concerned with their building and prop-

An editorial cartoon in the Nation, the

country's most widely read newspaper,

shows two beefy men in Marine Corps battle gear pointing their rifles at a badly

the headline on an editorial in the Stan-

dard, the country's second-largest daily. The editorial called the Marines guard-ing the embassy "heavy-handed," "in-sensitive," and "looking more suited to

a Rambo movie than the bread and butter

It is almost impossible to judge how

deep the resentment runs beyond the

country's leaders and the elite. On the

streets conflicting sentiments are

Much of the anger expressed by or-

dinary Kenyans arises out of the refusal

of the U.S. Marines to allow anyone into

the embassy after the blast. Many

Kenyans who gathered outside the em-

bassy wanted to rush in and begin dig-

ging through the rubble for victims.

They appeared not to understand that

the Marines' role was to protect the

embassy's documents and that no one

would be allowed into the building until

role of a guard in a city center."

phase of the episode ended, Kenyan crit-icism of the United States response Bulls T-shirt, who is missing his left leg icans. "mounted. Newspaper editorials and and right arm. "We can't take you for some people on the street criticized some security reasons," barks one Mar-

Americans for being overly concerned ine. Behind him, a white man is being

about their own and insensitive to carried on a stretcher to a plane with the Kenyans.

Less than two hours after the ceremony, Ambassador Bushnell, who had "The ogly side of Americans," read

"We did not see them first of all

sidered close to Islamic radicals had complained before the bombings that the like clockwork. Two suspected employ

The coincidence of this sequence of suspects, who are all Egyptian nationals, four arrests.

The coincidence of this sequence of suspects, who are all Egyptian nationals, four arrests.

The publication of Albania by the CIA

The publication of Albania b

icans who were present took custody of a yanload of documents and computer the attacks might have been revenge by Mr. bin Laden's organization for the But a serious problem cropped up almost immediately afterward. The enables in Tirana.

Washington to begin probing who were present took custody of a washington to begin probing who was reportedly now resides in Afghanistan, has not claimed responsibility for organization for the alleged members in Tirana.

The gravity of the inquiry is demonstrated as a washington to begin probing who was reportedly now resides in Afghanistan, has not claimed responsibility for organization for the attacks might have been revenge by almost claimed responsibility for organization for the attacks might have been revenge by almost claimed responsibility for organization for the attacks might have been revenge by the attacks might have been revenge by a claimed responsibility for organization for the attacks might have been revenge by the attacks might have been revenge by a reportedly now resides in Afghanistan, has not claimed responsibility for organization for the attacks might have been revenge by the attacks might have been revenge by a reportedly now resides in Afghanistan, has not claimed responsibility for organization for the attacks might have been revenge by the attacks might have b phoric Albanians leaked a sketchy ac-count of the raid, including an accurate a strated by the fact that several senior to be taught a lesson not to battle "the

they're required to do," General John-

son said at the memorial ceremony Wed-

nesday afternoon. "Their missioo was to

Israelis working on the rescue effort also commended the Americans.

"It's been distorted out of proportion," Russell Pitts, 39, from Tel Aviv,

said about the criticism of the Americans. "As soon as the Fairfax unit got here, they wanted to go up on the hill."

The American rescue effort was led

by the Fairfax County, Virginia, fire department's search and rescue special-ists. The "hill" was the pile of masonry

that had once been the Ufundi House.

today, and the flags of Kenya, Israel France and the United States flew at

International Herald Tribune

has issued an appeal for cootribu-tions to aid victims of the terrorist

attack on the U.S. Embassy in

The fund will be administered

with the Kenya High Commission in London and will be linked with a

national disaster fund in Kenya to

assist survivors of the blast and the

families of the more than 220 people

who were killed. Contributions can

be sent to the Nairobi Bomb Appeal,

Nairobi last week.

The Kenya Society in London

Appeal for Funds

Four white poles were erected there

General Johnson said be understood

protect the United States mission."

fended the Marines.

an alliance with Islamic militants linked One reason for Washington's interest to the Egyptian-based Jihad group, were arrested, any hope of keeping is that several Arab newspapers con- which had faxed a statement to news most do not adhere to strict Islamic an independent Islamic charitable orcifically threatening retaliation for the The publicity has cast an unusual

spotlight on the CIA-Albanian operation, which was meant to undercut the use of this economically poor and generally lawless country as a safe haven and a base of operations by Mr. bin Laden's alleged accomplices. The State Department has previously described Mr. hin Laden, a former construction magnate, as "one of the most significant ing terrorist cells in Bosnia, Chechnya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Tajikistan. But it has not yet drawn any public link

to activities in Albania. close ties with radical Muslims, but said.

Roughly 65 percent of Albania's 3 million or so citizens are Muslim, but organizations before the bombings spe- religious and social guidelines, according to officials.

The ease with which Albania could be penetrated was demonstrated by the fact Mr. bin Laden. that each of the four men arrested entered the country without proper documents and worked and traveled widely in Albania, several local sources confirmed. At least one, Ahmed Ibrahim Nagar, 35, was wanted by the Egyptian government on charges of involvement in a previous terrorist attack.

At the home of another man, Maged sponsors of Sunni Islamic terrorist Mostafa, a 36-year-old religious scholar, groups' and accused him of establish-security officials found a bag of faked documents and official Albanian government stamps needed to get past customs and police checkpoints, certify leto activities in Albania.

During the early 1990s, some Albanian government officials established ment security apparatus, the sources

Many other details of their activities in Albania, including bow and why they first came to the CIA's attention, remain shrouded in mystery. But at least three of those arrested ooce were associated with ganization that official sources in Tirama say provided a useful cover for the men's alleged efforts on behalf of

The organization, the Islamic Revival Foundation, aids poor Muslim families and orphans in Albania, said employees interviewed at two central offices in apartment buildings in this city. But the foundation is also closely linked with several other Islamic charitable and educational organizations located in Tirana and other Albanian cities, and it obtains all its funds from the same source they do: a group known as the Knwait Joint Relief Committee.

"I don't believe these accusations," said Mohammed Abdui-Kereem, who directs the group's aid to orphans. He suggested that the United States is powerful enough to have fabricated evidence against the group's members.

Kenyans Begin to Fault Americans Some Criticize U.S. Marines for Sealing Embassy After Bomb Blast "The last thing we wanted was for

building," Ambassador Bushnell said in her interview with Kenyan television.

Marine Brigadier General Steve Johnson, commander of the joint task force sent in response to the beaching. The Toughest Cases sent in response to the bombing, de-

Continued from Page 1

These Marines did exactly what government in Tanzania earlier this week, but those arrests appear unpromising. And there are many reasons oot to expect swift justice under U.S. law.

No one may ever know if last week's bombings were supported by a state like the Kenyan criticism. "Everyone here is Iraq, an intelligence service like Iran's, or an individual like the exiled Saudi financier Osama bin Laden. Mr. bin Laden has hailed such attacks in the past, financed terrorist groups from Egypt to Algeria to Afghanistan, and sought to unify them under his banner, according to intelligence officials. "This in all likelihood was not state-supported, and if it's not, 'Terror Inc.' is beginning to creep in," Mr. Bearden said.

Tracking a trail from the rubble of the

embassies to a command center in Baghdad, a clandestine cell in Tehran or a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan is a loog haul. Operating abroad, the FBI is on strange turf, searching for clues in unfamiliar terrain, seeking help from local officials who are sometimes unhelpful. On overseas investigations, the FBI and the CIA must work together, but they only recently began cooperating after decades of mistrust, intelligence and law-enforcement veterans say.

The CIA has few reliable sources inside international terrorist networks. And those networks are hy nature almost impossible to unravel. The chain of comwill. But that chain has many links.

So locating a bomber or his car may lead nowhere. The search sometimes never ends; the CIA is still lonking for the assassins who killed Richard Welch, its Athens statioo chief, in 1975. No one party. has ever been arrested by American aukilled 255 people, or in the bombings of 1995 and 1996, which killed 26 American military personnel.

laam. The investigation of the bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 airmen, is at a dead end. The FBI and capital Yangon. the Saudi intelligence service would not share information. The hureao, which had never conducted an investigation in even in the city. Last weekend, at bcr the kingdom, said the Saudis were uncooperative. The Saudis said the hureau was high-handed... You can never catch the bad guys without the help of your house arrest. friendly local foreign security and in-telligence services, Mr. Bearden said. The Beirut embassy explosion damaged the CIA's ability to understand, infiltrate and nullify terrorism. The bomh destroyed the agency's Beirut station, killing seven CIA officers, among them Robert Ames, the agency's top Mideast analyst. He had served as the chief of the CIA's clandestine service in the Arab world and as a covert operator in Iran, Lebanon, Kuwait and Yemen. Ten years before the Beirut bombing, he had won the trust of Ali Hassan Salemeh, the security chief of Al Fatab, then one of the security chief of Al Fatab, then one of the people or of most foreign powers. world's most feared terrorist organizations. Mr. Salemeb provided the CIA with advance warning of the assassi-nation plots of radical Palestinian groups and helped the agency win agents inside Islamic political and guerrilla organizations, according to former intelligence officials. In 1979, he was killed by a car



ISRAEL SET-TO - An Israeli policeman clubbing an Orthodox Jew in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Orthodox Jews are protesting a new highway because of ancient bones that have been uncovered.

mand in a sophisticated terrorist group connects the intellectual author of the terror to the attackers who carry out his will But that chain has more than the property of the structual author of the terror to the attackers who carry out his will But that chain has more than the property of the structure.

Continued from Page 1

of Rangoon, heading toward the town of Bessein. With ber in her car were two drivers and a senior member of her

The Burmese government said in a thorities in the Beirut bombings, which statement Wednesday that it "regrets that security conditions in Ayarwaddy t unsafe for Ms to travel there at this time, but the govemment encourages Ms. Suu Kyi to re-But those cases provide lessons for the turn home and continue her political investigators in Nairobi and Dar es Sa- activities in a more secure environment in Yangon." The ruling junta has renamed the country Myanmar and the

> Earlier, the government voiced concern for Daw Anng San Suu Kyi's safety demand, it removed the security detail that has guarded her compound since her release in mid-1995 from six years of

> She had initially requested the protection. Now, the government said, it cannot be held responsible for anything that might happen to her.

> The military government, for its part, can point to few accomplishments during its decade of rule since the country's long-time strongman, U Ne Win, stepped into the background. It appears to have quieted the ethnic insurgencies that challenged the central government for years. But it has failed to revive the

> Nevertheless, there is no sign at the moment of the unrest among studeots and monks that exploded into street protests, and then into military violence, in August 1988.

Since a round of demonstrations in December 1996, the country has been largely calm. The political standoff is bomb, probably by the Mossad, Israel's being played out in small, tense gestures. Among them was the arrest Sunday of 18 foreign demonstrators who handed out anti-government leaflets in Rangoon.

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The demonstrators remained in deteotion Wednesday as their bome govemmeots demanded their release. The local authorities said they were trying to decide whether to put them on trial or expel them

The detainees included six Amerithree Indooesians, two Filipinos and one Australian.

■ U.S. Company Withdraws

After sinking \$50 million into a controversial project off the coast of Burma, Atlantic Richfield Co. said it was withdrawing from the troubled country but denied that it was caving in to inter-national pressure to punish the increasingly belligerent military regime, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

Colombia General Denies Role as a Paid CIA Source

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - The Colomhian general Ivan Ramirez Quin-

In a telephone call to The Wasbington Post, and in a radio interview broadcast in Bogota, General Ramirez on Tuesday called a Washington Post story linking him to the paramilitary organizations while on

Ramirez said he was retiring but not because of the story. The newly elected Colombian president, Andres Pastrana, dismissed the military high command Sunday and named new leaders. People who visited General Ramirez's office said he was packing boxes with personal belongings, but an army spokesman said the general

General Ramirez said he had worked with every CIA station chief at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota since 1988 but was not a paid informant. U.S. officials said that General Ramirez had been a CIA informant but that the agency severed relations with him in 1995 because of evidence he was engaged in protecting

General Ramirez was a key figure in military intelligence in the past 15 years in Colombia, where the military has been battling a Marxist insurgency for nearly four decades.

for alleged "terrorist" activities in relation in paramilitary groups, but he denied any ties to the organi-

in care of the Royal Bank of Scota professional rescue team arrived and it 12 Americans and 24 Kenyan employland, 24 Grosvenor Place, London was determined that huilding was safe. SW1 7HP, England. ees who were inside the embassy.

IRAQ: Long-Term Monitoring by UN Threatened, 2 Inspectors Say

Continued from Page 1

have resulted in the discontinuation of implementation of a joint program of inspection of Iraq sites," Mr. Baradei wrote. He said the sites "are deemed to have capabilities suitable for conducting work on some aspect of weapons of mass Mr. Butler wrote in his letter that Iraq

was now limiting monitoring activities to only those sites previously designated by Iraq and the UN Special Commis-

This denies the right of the com-mission to inspect additional, non-declared sites, where the capabilities for conducting proscribed or monitorable activities may exist," Mr. Butler wrote.
"Soch conditions significantly reduce the effectiveness of monitoring.

David Albright, president of the In-stime for Science and International Se-curity in Washington and a former International Atomic Energy Agency expert who has worked in Iraq, said Wednesday

that he was "a little surprised" that this Iraqi action happened so quickly.

"Clearly they want to weaken the inspection effort," he said. "It's quite-serious if the Iraqis do not roll this one

Arms control experts say that it is important that the Security Council, and above all the United States, act firmly and soon if Iraq is to be deterred from further undoing disarmament requirements. At the Wisconsin Project in Wash-

ington, Mr. Milhollin said that Iraq had "made a cynical judgment that the United States is not willing to force Iraq to accept meaningful inspections."

BRIEFLY

Abiola's Death Due To Natural Causes

OTTAWA - The July 11 death of the Nigerian opposition leader, Moshood Abiola, was due to natural causes, an international medical team confirmed Wednesday.

But Chief Abiola's lengthy impris-onment could have added to the hypertension problems that contributed to his death, suggested Dr. James Young, chief coroner for Ontario and a member of the international team.

The team's findings showed that Chief Abiola suffered from "severe long-standing disease of the heart of a type and severity that can cause sudden unexpected death."

Tensions Heighten In Border Standoff

LIMA — Tensions between Peru and Ecuador increased Tuesday after Peru refused to resume talks to end a border standoff until Ecuador withdraws troops from a disputed zone. Ecuador maintained its troops are not in Peruvian territory and refused to

remove them. Foreign Minister Eduardo Ferrero of Pemade the announcement in response to the inauguration speech of the oew Ecuadorean president, Jamil Mahuad in Quito on Monday. Mr. had launched an intensi track the perpetrators.

Fuimori of Peru to meet with him to reach a peace agreement.

King Fahd Is Well After 2d Operation

RIYADH - King Fahd of Saudi Arabia underwent a successful operation Wednesday to remove his inflamed gallbladder and is in "excellent health," according to a statement by the royal palace read on television.

The operation, the second in 10 days, was carried out by an American surgeon, Dr. Ted Pappas, aided by a Saudi surgical team in the King Faisal Specialist Hospital here, the nation's best medical facility.

Train Bomb Kills 7

ALGIERS — A bomb exploded on an Algerian passenger train Wednes-day, killing seven people and wounding 11, the Algerian government security forces said.

The bomb exploded as the train was passing through Ain Torki in Ain Defla province, 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Algiers, the se-

curity forces said. They blamed "terrorists" - the government shorthand for Muslim rebels. The security forces added in a statement carried by the official Algerian news agency, APS, that troops had launched an intensive manhunt to

From the response so far of the Clinton administration, be said, "Iraq appears to be correct.

"The entire history of these inspections shows that unless the United States actively backs the inspection teams with the threat of force, that Iraq will not comply," Mr. Milhollin said.

Members of the Security Council appeared today to be taking a cautions approach to the new challenge. Some diplomats believe that Mr. Saddam is only making the situation worse for him-

self by alienating his supporters.
Iraq must be certified free of ouclear, biological, chemical and prohibited missile programs or the means to restart them in order to have the embargo on Iraqi oil sales lifted. The lifting of that embargo has been the focus of Iraq's

single-minded campaign. But as Iraqi violations of council resolutions and the agreement signed with Secretary-General Kofi Annan in February mount, chances of sanctions being lifted in October during the next review

fade significantly. On the other hand, haq has always responded to threats, most of all military threats, and there are oone this time. In the absence of warnings of retaliation. the Iraqis have been steadily rolling back the UN restrictions. Some experts say that it will be harder to turn back the Iraqi efforts as time goes by.

TALEBAN: A Time of Decision in Afghanistan's Cruel Struggle

foreign intelligence service.

Continued from Page 1

omy. But with the apperent triumph of the Taleban, history may record that the Communists achieved exactly the opposite of what they promised.

Their efforts to force compliance with

their program, especially in the arch-conservative world of the Afghan village, triggered a civil war that drew in Soviet forces in December 1979.

In turn, this prompted the White House, under Jimmy Carter and later Ronald Reagan, to commit the United States to backing the Afghan mujahidin, the self-styled Muslim holy warriors who eventually drove out the Russians in February 1989.

The American effort, backed by other Western countries and by Sandi Arabia, turned Afghanistan into the climactic confrontation of the Cold War.

By the time the Kremlin withdrew its forces, the Soviet Union was barely three and a half years away from collapse. But Afghanistan was virtually obliterated as a functioning state, with coiled, many others in a country that is thousands of its villages in rubble, at overwhelmingly rural found little to object have recognized the Taleban.

When the Taleban first appeared, in 1995, many in the West were dismayed. But to many Afghans, the rise of a movement rooted in the ancient ways of the any definable goal, other than personal Afghan village, with its insistence on strict forms of purdah for women and summary executions, or amputations, for adulterers, blasphemers and thieves, seemed like an inevitable consequence of a conflict in which modern weapons, poured in with scant consideration for the catastrophe they wrought on the civilian population, had reduced an ancient society to rubble.

With many of the attributes of modern civilization destroyed - schools, bospitals, factories, highways - the way was cleared for a band of simple village men, originally mostly semiliterate Muslim cleries, to offer their own brand of salvation, in the form of a return to a form of medievalism.

While educated Afghans generally re-

least a million of its people dead, and to in the Taleban's social strictures. another 5 million living abroad as refugees, mostly in Iran and Pakistan.

To the villagers, and to many dwellers, too, what mattered most To the villagers, and to many citydwellers, too, what mattered most was that the Taleban held out the prospect of ending a civil war in which most the factions had long since ceased to have

> In the immediate future, and possibly for much longer, the Taleban seem likely to be faced with cootinuing resistance from the two remaining opposition forces, the Hezbe-i-Wahdat of Abdul Khalili in the redoubt of Barniyan, and the Jamaat-Islami of Ahmed Shah Massoud in the Panjshir Valley.

> For the Taleban, military ascendancy may prove to be only half the battle. Bolstered by their victories in recent days, Taleban spokesmen have renewed demands for international recognition of their government in Kabul, the Afghan

> So far, two years after Kabul fell to Taleban forces, only Pakistan, Sandi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, out of more than 180 nations worldwide,

By Douglas Farah

tero, accused by U.S. officials of protecting rightist paramilitary death squads, said he was ending his military career but angrily denied be was a paid informant for the Central Intelligence Agency.

the CIA's payroll in the late 1980s and early 1990s "defamatory." In the telephone call, General

had not submitted his resignation. paramilitary organizations.

His U.S. visa was revoked in May

Giving Up on Iraq

These first days of August have brought a disquieting retreat by the Clinton administration on Iraq. Without saying as much, the White House seems on the verge of altering seven years of U.S. policy by letting Saddam Hussein slip free of the international effort to prevent him from developing a new arsenal of biological and chemical weapons. That would be a grave mistake.

The change of tone and direction has been striking in the week since Saddam ended Iraqi cooperation with United Nations weapons inspectors, breaking the agreement he reached earlier this year with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Instead of warning Saddam that his resistance was no more acceptable oow than it was before, and would be met with military force if oecessary, the administration has de-

liberately downplayed the defiance. Mr. Annan, for his part, has urged the Security Council to review the inspection system and accompanying economic sanctions that have been in place since the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

This is just the kind of equivocating performance that Saddam has been hoping to provoke. A relaxation of sanctions and reliance oo less intrusive inspections might be in order if Iraq had complied with the Security Council requirement that it dismantle all weapons of mass destruction and make no effort to rebuild them. But Iraq has resisted inspection at every turn, leaving inspectors convinced that it retains the ambition and means to develop biological and chemical weapons.

Saddam has repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to attack his neighbors, even his countrymen. Allowing him to replenish his stockpile of hiological and Could replenish weapons would threaten the Gulf region and its oil fields, as well as Israel. Few developments would so directly en-

danger U.S. security interests.

There should be no illusions in Washington about the difficulty of keeping Saddam in check. The Security Council is wobbly, with Russia and France eager to ease inspections and sanctions. Mr. Annan's resolve seems in doubt. Many Americans questioo the need to maintain pressure on Bagbdad

and would oppose the use of force. But the threat is too great to give ground to Saddam. The cost to the world and to America of dealing with a belligerent Iraq armed with biological weapons would be far greater than the

cost of preventing it from rearming.
Without a clear and consistent message from Washingtoo that it is prepared to enforce the inspectioo system, Iraq's weapons programs cannot be reliably contained. Unless Mr. Annan insists that Baghdad fully honor its agreement with him, increasingly bold Iraqi challenges to UN authority are

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Olympics and Drugs

The drug scandals rocking the world of international sports have confrooted the Olympic movement with a much larger eredibility problem than its leaders seem to realize. Although the Olympie Games no longer represent the ideal of amateurism, they still embody ideals of fair play and booest competition. Yet drugs have put even those simple values at risk. Why in the world would anyone, much less bundreds of millions of people, choose to watch a competition in which the race goes not to the swift hat to the ebemically enhanced?

This bas been a drug-ridden summer in sports. The legendary Tour de France nearly collapsed in embarrassmeot when the world's best cycling team, Festina, were suspended for using performance-enhancing drugs. The International Amateur Athletic Federation announced that two of America's top athletes, the sprinter Dennis Mitchell and the 1996 Olympic sbot tested positive for illegal substances, and suspended both. Then, last Thursday, Michelle Smith-De Bruin, the Irisb swimmer who captured hearts and three gold medals at the 1996 Summer Olympics, was charged with manipulating a drug test and banned from

further competition. Reporters who cover sports say there is already so much cynicism among the athletes that anyone who sets a ocw world record is immediately suspected of doping. So far that cynicism has not spread to the public, but it will surely do so unless the authorities move quickly to develop a more credible and comprehensive system of testing and punishment. To be fair, the International Olympie Committee does a far. more effective job of policing drug use than other athletic bodies. But, given its responsibility for one of the world's

premier sports events, it must do even better. The first order of business is to change attitudes at the top.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC's president, has convened a board meeting in Lausanne on Aug. 20 to prepare for a doping "summit" next January. But Mr. Samaranch's own commitment to the cause is suspect. He recently suggested to the Spanish daily El Mundo that performance-enhancing drugs should be permitted unless they pose a threat to the athletes that use them, a bizarre statement that shocked many of his colleagues, Second, the IOC must be ready to

spend serious money on the problem. The IOC and others have agreed to put \$2 million into new research, but experts say more will be needed to develop tests as sophisticated as the drugs they are meant to detect. During the Tour de France scandal, experts noted that there were no reliable tests to detect the sobstance at the heart of the that increases aerohic capacity.

Third, the IOC must bring other governing bodies into line. The international federations that govern three Olympic sports — cycling, volleyball and tennis - do not even participate in the IOC's testing program. It is also common knowledge that some national Olympic committees are far more vigilant than others. Dick Schultz, an American Olympic official, put the matter well in a recent interview: "There is a morass out there that needs to be reviewed to determine what is performance-enhancing and what is not. I doo't think there's any question that the drug gurus who are trying to beat the system are ahead of the police."

The next Games are two years away. That is oot a lot of time for Mr. Samaranch to get ahead of the gurus. -THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Prescribe a Bridge to Cuba

When a hoary foreign policy like Washington's economie embargo of Cuba stymies developments that could help sick Americans, then surely the time has come to review its status and cast a cold eye on the political clout of the anti-Castro machine in Congress. The issue this time turns on a break-

through in arresting an epidemic of deadly group B meningitis, a medical achievement of Cuba's very active and underrated medical research community. That development has value for victims anywhere, and Smith-Kline Beecham, a pharmaceutical giant, has asked the Clinton administration to waive the no-trade embargo to permit trials of the Cuban-made vaccine. which has virtually wiped out group B meningitis in the island nation.

Washington imposed the embargo after Fidel Castro came to power and declared the country a Communist state, becoming a spearhead for Soviet

communism in the Americas. The trade ban may have made sense four decades ago, when a strong Cuba could present a threat. Those were the years when the island joined an avant-garde of leftist-led nations dedicated to world power. But that power was oever achieved. Cuba was smothered by the embargo and forced by the collapse of

the Soviet bloc to fend for itself. The island's remarkable medical developments grew out of an imposed self-reliance. Its scientists have built a little known but sophisticated biotechnology field, a success that has now drawn the attention of industry leaders.

The Treasury Department should issue a waiver to allow Smith-Kline to test the vaccine. A humanitarian bridge can be constructed on this development. With Castroism likely to pass with its founder, Washington should give hard thought to building a new foundation for connections. What better opportunity than this?

- Los Angeles Times.

Herald Eribune

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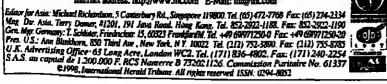
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How East Asians Are Finding Fault With the IMF

TOKYO—In the past year, the IMF has been prescribing medicine to cure East Asia's financial and ecooomic illness. The medicine has been particularly harsh in the three countries worst affected by the crisis - Indone-

sia, Thailand and South Korea. They are getting more than \$120 billion in emergency loans arranged by the IMF, but only on condition that they carry out agreed reforms.

The IMF's approach has been criticized on five counts.

. It turned out to be a bailout of international creditors rather than of afflicted countries. The burden of adjustment fell heavily on local institutions and people. Foreign creditors were rescued from the market consequences of persistent miscalculation of risk and misallocation of resources.

The real "moral hazard" lay in bailing out the perpetrators of the problem while putting many innocent bystanders out of work and into poverty through tough fiscal and monetary policies.

 These policies were excessively contractionary. The IMF called for higher interest rates, price stability, gov-ernment spending cuts, and no bailout of troubled firms. Companies and banks collapsed under the weight of the deflationary fiscal and monetary policies.

The austerity measures deepened self-fulfilling investor panie instead of easing it. They also turned what had originally been sound investment proBy Ramesh Thakur

jects into problematic ones by feeding the cycle of self-sustaining decline in

· The doctrinaire squeeze on central bank credit and budget deficits was based on the diagnosis of the ailment that had afflicted Latin America a decade earlier — government profligacy. Its main symptoms were high budget deficits and public sector debts.

Yet in East Asia in 1997, monetary policies were sound, budgets were in surplus, current account deficits were under 5 percent of GDP (except for Thailand), and savings rates were high. The main problem was crooy capi-

talism, not crony socialism — private, not public, sector debt; misallocated investment not excessive consumption or inadequate saving; and a crisis of confidence amid sound economic fundamentals.

Asia required counter-recessionary policies and selective aid to local financial institutions to minimize economie slowdown and restore confidence. Many East Asian economies have either slid into recession or are slowing sharply.

As the currency collapse across the

region outstripped the economic remedies prescribed by the IMF, governmental and popular faith in the Fund was greatly eroded. Many Asians concluded

not despite, the bailout packages.

• IMF policies are seen as an attack oo economic sovereignty. Governments fear that allowing foreign companies uncontrolled equity ownership and market access will lead to the takeover of local enterprises and the domination of

national economies by foreign firms. The "Asian" growth model produced prosperity through a state-influenced system of close cooperation between government, banks and industry acting together in a nation-building en-terprise. Successive U.S. governments tried to destroy the model because of its protectionism and dirigisme. Was Asian pain exploited for U.S. gain?

IMF assistance was made conditional on market-opening policies. Since the value of local currencies was low and the market value of local institutions had collapsed, they could be bought at "fire sale" prices. The sale of domestic firms and assets to foreigners at bargain basement prices under the direction of the IMF risks provoking a backlash of economic nationalism.

 The crisis was exploited to launch liberal market and political revolutions. The legitimacy and stability of East Asia's less than democratic regimes rested on economic growth. As this stalled, popular discontent with govemments increased in many countries, strikes or riots occurred in some places, President Subarto of Indonesia was

that the crisis had worsened because of, forced to resign after 32 years in power, and there was a general questioning of political authority elsewhere.

garism's Roo

In this explosive mix, efforts by the IMF to focus solely on economie fundamentals to the exclusion of social and political reality risked heightening popular discontent, instead of cushioning the pain of ordinary people.

The IMP may well be the only doctor in town for treating currency afflictions. But in the view of some Asian commentators, its only prescription is the medieval one of bleeding the patient until the patient recovers — or dies. The criticism may be unfair, but it is politically potent.
The IMF must accept the reality than

the world's financial markets have become integrated. Institutions of international economic management are needed that can cope with multi-country crises and are sensitive to the local

conditions, both social and political.

The IMF, the World Bank and to a lesser extent the World Trade Organization are all we have to manage the global economy. Hence the importance that they get it right when things go wrong in countries under their care.

The writer, vice rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo, contributed this personal comment to the international Herald Tribune.

The Yuan? Ignorant Scaremongering Is the Real Problem

HONG KONG — Juvenile sound-bite economists have worked up quite some inter-national financial hysteria over the alleged global impact of yeo weakness. In particular, they have spread the notion that Japan's problems will

cause a follow-the-yen devaluation of the Chinese ynan, which will then send other Asian correncies into new downward spirals and globalized financial maybem. How about some facts? Sure, a weak yen is going to

keep downward pressure on goods prices in North America and Europe and undermine the rosy assumptions built into stock prices on Wall Street and throughout Europe. But the picture in Asia is very different.

First, take the youn. Even assuming that it is eventually devalued again - and almost no one thinks that likely before By Philip Bowring

oext year - its trade impact on the rest of Asia would be modest and slow acting, in the same way that Southeast Asian, Taiwan and South Korean devaloations have had only modest impact on China's exports.

Overall, China's exports in volume terms are still growing at rooghly the same rate as those of its neighbors. Those to the United States and Europe are still booming.

China's export problems, such as they are, have been caused mostly by the collapse of domestic demand elsewhere in Asia, rather than by loss of competitiveness. Devaluation would be a tonic for the profitability of Chinese enterprises burdened with overcapacity, debts and weak domestic demand. But the external trade

As for the rest of the region,

lot of nonsense is written about their need to export their way out of their difficulties and how this would be made impossible by a Chinese devaluation. The reality is that trade deficits are not a problem in-Asia. Volume exports to countries outside the region are still satisfactory.

Almost every country in the regioo is recording hoge trade surpluses because of a collapse in imports. Their export problem is soft prices due to excess capacity caused by weak domestie demand in the region. Competitiveness is not an is-

sue. Asia now has it in spades, and from a trade perspective should not be unduly upset by a devaluation of the unconvertible yuan. (The only exception impact of, say, a 25 percent is Hong Kong, which has devaluation would be limited, painted uself into a dollar peg

corner which would be unsustainable should China devalue.) The bigger danger is a prolonged weakness in China's domestic demand causing increased dumping of excess in-ventory onto world markets.

The problems in Asia (except Japan) are not of current accounts and trade. They are very high real interest rates, volatile capital flows and the collapse of domestic demand that has followed. What matters far more to them now than exchange rates is interest rates and revival of demand at home

for the rest of Asia.

crally improves their terms of

trade, since Japan is their main source of imports.
Such facts cannot of course

and underinformed traders in the capital markets can create

competitiveness. It is an indictment of open

and among their neighbors. What matters in particular is a revival of demand and an end to deflation in Japan. If a weak yen helps, that would be good

Of Asian exporters, only Taiwan and South Korea compete significantly with Japan. For the rest, a weak yen gen-

compete with market hysteria. The instant views of overpaid

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flows of funds vastly in excess of those mobilized in the short term by the forces of trade and

capital markets that scare stories about yuan devaluation can cause much more economie damage than the reality. The cost of capital has risen, badly needed interest rate cuts are deferred, and recession threatens to become depression.

In the past few days, billions of dollars have left Asia because of self-feeding fears based on ignorance of facts and lack of accountability. That, not the yuan, is something to worry about.

International Herald Tribune.

Look Past the Clinton Story at Lousy Harassment Law.

WASHINGTON — The "story" is President Bill Clinton's impending grand jury testimony. The unseen story is how dubious law - bere, the law of sexual harassment takes America in unintended

and unwanted directions. Most Americans wish they had never heard of Monica Lewinsky. A CBS news survey last week found that, by a 63 to 31 percent margin, people think the country would be better off if the Lewinsky investigation had never started. The reason it did is sexual harassment law.

The scandal began with the Paula Jones lawsuit - a case that never should have been

To say that does not mean that the case was frivolous. A frivolous case involves behavior that did not occur or, if it did, is legal. But the law on sexual barassment is so murky and expansive that it extends to Mrs. Jones's complaint that Mr. Clinton asked for oral sex. The law makes almost any kind of unwanted sexual speech or con-duct potentially illegal if, somehow, it is tied to the workplace.

Ugly things do happen at work. A recent Washington Post poll found that 56 percent of Americans think that women are "often" harassed at work. But good things happen, too. Although a lot of office romances end poorly, the most likely outcome is marriage, reports a survey of 600 corporate personnel officers by the Society for Human Resource Management

It would be nice to have a law that punished abusive sexual behavior at work without suppressing men and women's freedom to deal naturally with each other. Present law does not approach this lofty ideal.

The central problem is that no one can say what sexual harassment is.

Just about everyone agrees that supervisors should not ask subordinates for sexual favors in return for a job, higher pay or a promotion. This is "quid pro quo" harassment. But the law goes beyond this and makes feelings - anger, embarrassment displeasure — the basis for claiming "hostile environment" harassment.

The result is to convert boorish behavior, botched relationships and bad taste into grounds for lawsuits. Just what is legal and illegal is muddled. Congress does not mention

harassment in Title VII of the

By Robert J. Samuelson

does not elearly say what it is. The court defines harassment as conduct "so severe or per-

vasive as to alter the conditions of [the victim's] employment and create an abusive work environment." When "properly applied," this standard would "filter out complaints attacking the ordinary tribulations of the workplace, such as the sporadie use of abusive language. gender-related jokes and occa-

sional teasing." U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright dismissed Mrs. lones's suit on the grounds that the alleged incident did "oot constitute the kind of sustained

WASHINGTON — When President Bill Clinton

of privacy protected by the

properly within your mandate

right to ask me, or any Amer-

ican whom you summon to your

grand jury, about private meet-

tions of sexual relations.

1964 Civil Rights Act, which he did not waive his consti-

prohibits job discrimination, unional rights of privacy.

the record that just because he

agreed to testify, as he said,

"completely and truthfully."

sual sexual relations.

Fourth

The Supreme Court more or and nontrivial conduct occesless invented the coocept but sary for a claim of hostile work because it offended someone: environment." (Mrs. Jones has appealed.)

If Mr. Clintoo headed the local power company, would the judge have let him off? I doubt it. But the point is that no one can tell; the standard is that vague. I think the suit never should have been brought, because the law should be tighter. Harassment should involve

job consequences — either the threat or loss of a joh or pay. (Mrs. Jones suffered none, despite claims to the contrary.) Eogene Volokh of the UCLA Law School offers much ev-

Then there is the case of Jer-

against Miller.

idence that free speech is suppressed in the name of halting falsely files a lawsuit or com-

harassment. In one incident, a graduate student had to remove a picture of his wife in a bikini

old Mackenzie, a manager at the Miller Brewing Co., who one morning discussed a racy epis-ode of "Seinfeld" with a coworker. After she complained, he was fired, despite his good record. He was unemployed for two years before suing and winning a \$24.7 million judgment

Vague harassment law becomes a channel for all manner of personal or workplace grievances. In real life, these disputes' are as messy as human nature. The Washington Post poll also asked how often a "woman

plaint against a man." Among women respondents, 34 percent said this happened "often" and 44 percent "sometimes."

Of the complaints made to

the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 40 percent q sonable cause" and another 40 percent lapse, often because the complainants provide no sup-19 porting evidence. Good laws are clear. Other-A

wise people cannot obey them^M and can construe conduct they is dislike to be illegal. By this " commonsense standard, sexual "

harassment is bad law. Worse, the courts have dep-quized companies to police it, dbecause if they don't they face q lawsuits. To avoid suits, the?! temptation is to define harass-92 ment broadly. Firms will in-is creasingly intrude on the speech. and private behavior of their workers; at worst, there will beilt

vigilantes in the workplace. Congress ought to rescue the: Supreme Court from its con-it fusion by legislating limits.: This seems unlikely. Clinton haters may suspect that the har-wall assment laws are too loose, but; they relish the chance to attack:2 the president; Clinton support-tiers think that the Jones case was used-politically but are ideo logically committed to broad

testifies to the grand jury oo to testify forecloses such a Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, and his deputies claim may end up as an arwould be left with the limited gument between lawyers over

Monday, and is first asked about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, he could reply with something like this: "I respectfully refuse to answer questions you are asking me, or will ask me, about my private sex life. That is none of your business, and none of any prosecutor or investigator's fer from what Ms. Lewinsky has business. It is within the zone

physical evidence to prove exactly what was discussed Amendment and covered by court decisions protecting the privacy of consen-"I will readily answer all questions about possible obstruction of instice and about discussions I had with Ms. Lewinsky after she was served with a subpoena in the Paula Jones case. I acknowledge that investigating obstruction of justice is

as independent counsel, but I cannot agree that you have the during this investigation.

ings and possible sexual rela-tions with a consenting adult." He could then refuse to answer any question concerning visits by Ms. Lewinsky to the White House and all questions concerning her reported allega-The president's lawyers will Not likely. be at his side in the Oval Office, Moreover, Mr. Starr has formally withdrawn the grand jury and they could then explain for subpoena in exchange for the

Just Say Sex Is None of Starr's Business By Nathan Lewin

> and unsatisfactory option of in-terrogating the president about what he said to Ms. Lewinsky regarding the evidence that Mrs. Jones'a lawyers were seeking. Mr. Clinton's account could dif-

If an ordinary federal grand iary witness - not the president of the United States - invoked constitutional rights of privacy to justify a refusal to answer relevant grand jury questions about his sex life, a prosecutor would probably haul the witness before a federal judge and have him held in contempt and jailed until he testified.

said, but there is no objective

It is true that the privacy claim is legally unsound, but no more so than many privilege claims that have been invoked by the Clinton White House Would Mr. Starr seek a con-

tempt sanction against the president of the United States when most Americans (more than 60 percent, according to opinion polls) are unhappy that Mr. Starr is investigating Mr. Clinton's sex life in the first place?

president's agreement to testi-

fy. Thus there is no legal basis

for holding the president in con-

tempt if he declines to testify

about alleged sexual relations with Ms. Lewinsky. And wbether his agreement

ambiguous terms. The writer was the lawyer for Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d in an independent

counsel investigation conduc-ted in 1987 and 1988. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

notions of harassment. The result is a conspiracy of silence in favor of lousy law.

Washington Post Writers Group.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Peace Protocol

PARIS - (The Herald says in an Editorial:] Virtually the war is over. Orders were sent to military and naval commanders notifying them of the suspension of hostilities, which have lasted just sixteen weeks. The Protocol contains the points which will have to be embodied in a treaty of peace. It provides for the evacuation of Cuba and Porto Rico, for a coaling station in the Ladrones, and for the retention of Manila and its bay until the fate of the Philippines is decided by a commission.

1923: Vienna Divorce

VIENNA — Going to the movies against the wishes of the busband is sufficient ground for divorce, a court has decided here. The wife pleaded that on each occasion when she violated her husband's orders, he forgave her when she gave him a kiss. She

argued also that forbidding her to go to movies constituted an unjust curtailment of her personal liberties. The judge, however, ruled in favor of the husband.

1948: Easier Fashions

PARIS — The simple and easyto-wear clothes have come back. into their own after the very natural post-war feminine reaction? and need for extravagant "news? looks." Classic suits and frocks, 9 highlighted by superb tailoring L and fabrics, are reaffirming their T constancy. The fall showings of houses like Creed, Jean Farrel it O'Rossen and Heim-Jeunes P. Filles all emphasize a swing! over to the unencumbered but subtle line. Jean Farrel states? that the "New Look" was all necessary extravagance after the war's restrictions, but now in its? place emerges the woman which cumbered, sophisticated without eccentricities.

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San production of the state of Marine with the season of the Manual Indiana is see the Service of the charles of the And well a for the first the infinitelling and expectations and engine Alan Truscutt was Made pany Red American Contract Marian ican cab Whiles and a s be junearl the Boca Ralum, Florida. DEATH WITH MIN The squared with a

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Terrorism's Roots: Complicated and Often Unconnected

PARIS — The Taleban, "students of theology," now control nearly all of Afghanistan, having conquered the last strongholds of both Uzbek and Tajik resistance, as well as forces of the Shifte Hazaras, allied with Iran. None of these groups, however, is disposed to submit to the Taleban, and all are linked to crossborder ethnic supporters.

Afghanistan provides another demonstration that Islamic civilization has more than enough internal conflict to distract it from that "clash of civilizations" with the West that is fancied in some Western

Even fundamentalists are fighting one another, for reasons of nationalism. The Taleban themselves owe a debt to the CIA, which supported the mujahidin fighting the 1978 Russian invasion of Afghanistan; the mujahidin subsequently went on to fight elsewhere for Islamic fundamentalism. The mujahidin were the Taleban's predecessors, both backed by Pakistan,

America's ally in the Afghan secret war. The Taleban are financed by Sandi Arabia, America's main Arab ally - indeed, its client in the Middle East, guardian of the oil resources on which the West

Osama bin Laden, the man identified in early press reports as a possible organizer of last Friday's bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is a Saudi Arabian and supposedly is now in Afghanistan, protected by the Taleban. His aim is to expel the United States and its infloence from the Muslim world.

By William Pfaff

The Saudi Arabian monarchy is caught between its military and political depen-dence upon the United States and the internal threat posed by fundamentalism and nationalism, represented by Mr. bin Laden. That is why it evaded full cooperation with the United States in investigating the 1996 bombing of a U.S. Air Force residence in Saudi Arabia, in which 19 Americans died, and in which the involvement of Mr. bin Laden was

The legitimacy of the Saudi monarchy. badly weakened by the excesses and irresponsibility of many in the ruling family, rests upon its defense of strict Islamic orthodoxy. That is why the Sandi government finances fundamentalist Islamic movements not only in Afghanistan but in Palestine, where the Sandis support Hamas; in Sudan; probably in Algeria, and

possibly in Egypt. The Washington hue and cry following last week's bombings in Africa sought a name, an organization or, better yet, a government to hold responsible - and to bomb in revenge. This is a natural reaction to the horrors in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. It would be a relief to put a name to those guilty of these crimes. Instead we are forced to contemplate the complex web of forces behind the phenomenoo of

Individuals, and probably an organization, were responsible for what Gadhafi's daughter, among others. The

lished a "scorecard" of overseas terrorist attacks on Americans. From the Beirnt embassy and Marine barracks bombings of 1983, in which a total of 257 Americans were murdered, up to (but excluding) last

The complexities go infinitely beyond the whom-shall-we-bomb and our-reach-is-long rhetoric of government and press.

week's bombings in Africa, the scorecard counts 13 attacks, with 631 people killed, mostly Americans.

The memory of the United States may be very long and its reach very far, as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Sunday, but in these attacks over a decade and a half there has been just one arrest and conviction before an American court, on just one terrorist charge. Another person is awaiting U.S. trial. Two people have been convicted abroad and are being

held in foreign prisons.

One incident, the bombing of a West Berlin nightclub in 1986 that killed two U.S. soldiers, provoked an American air strike oo Libya, killing Colonel Moammar

happened, and perhaps a government, but the likelihood of identifying and punishing them is not great.

The New York Times has just publications and punishing them is not great.

The New York Times has just publications and punishing them is not great.

The New York Times has just publications are successful to that, according to American and British officials, was the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, which killed 270 people, mostly

Anyone who follows these affairs understands how twisted and complex the consequences may be of policies that seemed like a good idea at the time. The complexities go infinitely beyond the simplistic whom-shall-we-bomb and ourreach-is-long metoric of government and

press reactions. There is in this situation the risk that a political myth may displace concentration on responsible individuals, organizations and governments. The eminent British military historian Michael Howard has just said something about this (in the current literary supplement to The Times in London). He deplored the idea that the West faces something that might be called the "Green Peril"—a mythically united

Islam attacking the West.

The myth of a Green Peril, he writes, "falls into the most dangerous category of myths of them all — 'the Conspiracy to Take Over the World.' These sink their roots deep in collective paranoia and nev-er entirely die."

He warns that historians and other scholars (and even journalists?) need to quench this particular myth "with a douche of cold, boring historical fact."
"People may not listen," he cooclodes, "hut at least we can my."

International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jews in Poland

Regarding "Poland Still Has a Way to Go in Ending Anti-Semitism" (Opinion, Aug. 8) by Ab-

raham Brumberg: Mr. Brumberg's article refers, inter alia, to the problem of Polish textbooks.

The American Jewish Committee launched a major study this year to examine the treatment of Jewish themes in the textbooks of enon. Moreover, the centrality of post-Communist societies. Our anti-Semitism in Nazi ideology is study on Poland, which looked at sometimes missing in the textmore than 40 history textbooks books. used in the national school system, was just released in both Polish and English.

The principal findings include:

Despite the significant role played by Jews in Polish history - they constituted 10 percent of the country's population un-til 1939 and more than a third in such major cities as Warsaw the Jewish experience is given scant attention. Indeed, the multiethnic and multicultural history of Polish society is largely ig-

 While World War II appropriately is a focal point in the textbooks, the Holocaust is usually discussed as a step in the Nazi extermination of the Polish people and not as a separate phenom-

 Virtually without exception, the textbooks fail to address the postwar fate of Jews in Poland. DAVID A. HARRIS New York.

The writer is executive director of the American Jewish Commit-

criminal life.

more of the strides being made by the Jewish community and the Polish authorities.

In addition to the rise of a new scholarship in Jewish studies there have emerged youth organ-izations, a Jewish kindergarten and elementary school, twn Polish-Jewish publications and many musical and cultural Jewish ABRAHAM BRUMBERG.

People should stop seeing the crosses at Auschwitz as something negative. The crosses should be seen as a symbol of sorrow and remembrance for all the men, women and children who, needlessly lost their lives

Chevy Chase, Maryland.

What difference does it make if there stands a cross, a star on any unique monument.

I would like to mention some other symbol at the death camp? They may seem different oo the surface but deep down aren't they all the same? Why stress the differences and oot the similar-

PASHA BAKHTIAR.

The Elgin Marbles

Regarding "A Tug-of-War Over Damaged Greek Masterwork" (July 31): The article oeglects two im-

portant points. First, the sculptures in the British Museum were created as integral parts of a total monument, the Parthenon, arguably the most significant creation of Western civilization. Those who believe in their own heritage can simply not tolerate the fragmentation of that

Second, scholars who need to study the monument as a whole must travel to various places to analyze, in foreign envirooments, pieces that physically join and that were part of a single creation.

Given, then, the concerns of civilized people to have the whole monument rennited, and the British insistence on retaining the Elgin Marhles as a monument to imperialistic cupidity, can we persuade the Greeks to send the Parthenon to London? At least then we archaeologists would save on travel expenses.

STEPHEN G, MILLER, Berkeley, California.

The writer is a professor of classical archaeology at the University of California at

Mufti's Funeral a Symbol Of the Divided Bosnia

By Anna Husarska

hol of the multiethnic Bosnia. His death sparked ethnic bostility that symbolizes the divided Bosnia.

Ibrahim Halilovic, the mufti of decimated Muslim community of the Republika Srpska, died last month at ago 52 of a heart attack. His death provoked pain in some

MEANWHILE

quarters and, not entirely surprisingly, shameful behavior hy some Bosnian Serbs.

Following an appeal by the sup-posedly moderate Serb Party of Posavina and Krajina, about 1,000 Bosnian Serbs gathered on the grounds of what was once Banja Luka's central mosque to prevent the mufti's burial there.

It is tragically ironic that the death of this gentle and soft-spoken man, who had dedicated bimself to preserving a multi-ethnic Bosnia, provoked such a nasty display of ethnic intoler-

The demonstration followed a familiar pattern: The Serbian flag was hoisted; loudspeakers hlasted nationalist Serbian songs, the mob chanted, "We won't give op Serb land"; a UN policeman and another international officer were attacked; Bosnian Serb police prevented 10 bases of Muslims from coming to what the believers had hoped would be the mufti's funeral; three journalists were roughed up, and two cameras were smashed.

It brought out the worst in a small group of fanatics and failed to bring nut the best in Banja Lukans and in the Republika Srpska authorities, who did oot so moch as squeak in protest or in

Mufti Halilovic stayed in Banja Luka throughout the Serbian ethnic cleansing that decimated his flock. At the beginning of the war, in 1992, he organized humani-tarian aid. He helped those who wanted to leave and those who decided to stay. Only two imams remained in the Republika Srpaka; six were murdered and

almost 200 were expelled. In May 1993 the Bosnian Serbs blew up Mufti Halilovic's be-loved Ferbadija mosque. The other 207 mosques in Serb-controlled

S ARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzego-Bosnia, of which 16 were in Banja Luka, were either burned to the ground or blown up by the Bosnian Serbs.

The postwar Republika Srpska is a Muslim-unfriendly place. Banja Luka, the leader of the Political violence continues, with expulsions and intimidation. Of the 220,000 Muslims in Mufti Halilovic's congregation, only 14,000 remain. The mufti stayed on to protect them, fighting unturingly for religious tolerance and reconciliation. Recently his battle was to obtain permission to re-huild the Ferhadija mosque.

This spring the Serbian mayor of Banja Luka announced that the reconstruction of the mosque "would be perceived by the Serbs as the darkest humiliation, which would open the old wounds and bring far-reaching con-

Mufti Halilovic was saddened hut determined. He was convinced that the reconstruction of the mosque and his presence were a sine qua non for the return of the Muslim refugees to Banja Luka.

The mufti, always respectful of Bosnian Muslim tradition, wanted to be buried on the grounds belonging to the Islamic commu-nity, where the Ferhadija mosque once stood. This was made impossible by some of his neighbors. and he was buried in Sarajevo.

Apart from the human tragedy this represents and the moral shame that it brings to the Banja Lukans who allowed a group of thugs to impose their will - and to the international community, which has troops on the ground and could have offered protection - there is a political lesson to be

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The presumably peace-loving, Dayton agreement-supporting and multiethnicity-favoring anthorities of the Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik and Biljana Playsic - were either unwilling or mable to show a minimum of humanity and stop the rule of the moh. This does not bode well for democracy's chances in the Bosnian elections, scheduled for Sept. 12 and 13.

This story of his funeral would have broken the mufti's heart.

The writer, a political analyst with the International Crisis Group, contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

BOOKS

THE THIEVES' OPERA: The Mesmerizing Story of Two Notorious Criminals in 18th-Century London

By Lucy Moore, 304 pages, \$25. Harcourt Brace.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

LUCY MOORE, a young British historian, paints in "The Thieves" Opera" a remarkably vivid and convincing portrait of Loudoo in the age of Hogarth. Amply illustrated with the work of the ootable painter and engraver, the book is at first glance an account of the lives of two celebrated criminals of the day, as well as of how, when those two lives came into fatal conflict, the styles and popular perceptions of crime were hrought into revealing contrast. Read purely as such, "The Thieves' Opera" is improposed. is immensely entertaining, in the best sense of that much abused word, as well

But there is more to Moore's tale than the details of two quite sordid lives and the various lessons to be drawn therefrom. By the early 1700s, when Jonathan Wild and Jack Sheppard were doing their dirty business in and about London, the old order was about to change. A 'civilized" world in which the criminal was as commonplace as the law-abiding. in which violence was a daily, inescapable reality, was about to give way to

as informative.

and the appallingly poor, and as it rose it began to demand protection for the comforts and privileges it had earned. Wild and Sheppard, who in their dif-ferent ways had profited from the known order of lawless venality, were in a certain sense victims of the change in public attitudes and expectations. Both were men of intelligence, wit and native

the civilized world as we now know it.

The middle class was rising to fill the great space between the obscenely rich

"was too great to be confined to ... servile work" and, after apprenticeship to a bucklemaker, found his way to the crowded, filthy, reeking streets of Lon-

Wild wasn't just any ordinary criminal: At a time when law enforcement was ininimal — in part, Moore argues, because the aristocracy believed that "their liberty entitled Englishmen 'to be as wicked as we think fit," — the law, such as it was, was placed in the hands of the lawless. Wild became a "thieftaker," a receiver of stolen goods who, in deep complicity with the men and women who had stolen something, sold it back to its original owners at punitive cost, it was a trade "involving hlackmail, informing, bribery, framing and organization of theft, as well as mere receivership," and Wild proved extraor-dinarily gifted at it. By 1718 he had declared himself "Thief-Taker general of Great Britain and Ireland" and, like so many others before and since, had begun to launder himself into respectability, he enjoyed a measure of this until popular opinion began to turn against the thieftakers, and what had been both acceptable and oecessary became despised.

Jack Sheppard determined that so-ciety as it was then structured offered no realistic hope of fair reward for his labors and a place among the respectable. He drifted into crime as a form of "old-fashioned flouting of authority" and remained ever thereafter at least as much a rebel as a criminal. His nwn gift turned out to be for housebreaking and jail escape, both of which he accomplished in ways so spectacular that he became a popular hero. "Nothing con-tributes so much to the talk of the town at present," according to one contem-porary account, "as the frolicksome and desperate adventures of the famous

resourcefulness. Wild, in the words of housebreaker and gaol-breaker Jack his early biographer Daniel Defoe, Sheppard." In 1728, not long after Sheppard's execution by hanging, he was immortalized by John Gay as Macheath, in "The Beggars' Opera," a role widely familiar unto this day.

were members in good standing of a vast criminal society in which heterogeneity was the rule. In a general London population of 600,000 there were some 10,000 full-time criminals.

Moore has written excellent thumbnail sketches of prostitutes, highwaymen, thief-takers, housebreakers and others who fell into even more narrow and arcane specialties, incloding the "Hook Pole Lay" ("a thief who used a long pole, with a hook attached to its tip, to pull unsuspecting riders off their borses to rob them") and the "Angler" ("a thief who, using a fishing rod and line from a high window or carriage, fished wallets out of the inside pockets of men walking beneath them, or wigs and hats off their heads"). As these quotations suggest, Moore has the good sense to take the criminals of Hogarthian London on their own terms rather than to judge them by nur own ostensibly more refined standards.

Those standards were a long time in coming; we had to pass through the Londoo she describes herein in order to achieve them, just as we had to pass through Hell's Kitchen in New York and Al Capone's Chicago. Jonathan Wild and Jack Sheppard were merely two members of a long procession of the disreputable that has led us, in this unimaginably enlightened age, to the sharks of Wall Street and the knaves of Washington. At least Wild and Shepperd met their ends on the gallows whereas the criminals of today find their way to the evening news and the shelves of respectable bookstores.

That, dear reader, is progress. Washington Post Service

ROMANIA

TATE OWNERSHIP JUND

BANC COMMITTEE OF

In accordance with the provisions of Law no. 83/1997 concerning the privatisation of banking companies where the State is a shareholder and according to the methodological norms for the implementation of Law no. 83/1997 approved by Government Decision no. 458/1997, the State Ownership Fund, headquartered in Romania, Bucharest, Str. Stavtopoleos no. 6, sector 3, acting as majority shareholder, on behalf of the State, announces the sale of the shares beneficially owned in the banking company BANC POST S.A., against downpayment, in keeping with the privatisation strategy approved by Government Decision no. 435/1998.

The privatisation strategy adopted provides for the implementation of the privatisation procedures in two stages, as follows:

sale of a package of maximum 45% of the Bank's issued equal capital through direct negotiation with preselected investors;

 sale through public offering of administer 10% of the Bank's issued equity copital, simultaneously with the listing of the Bank's shares on the Bucharest Stock Eachtrage; direct negotiation with Romanium natural persons - employees, managers and retirees of BANC POST S.A. - for a share package of maximum 8% of the Bank's issued equity capital.

Stage Two - calendar year 1999

o private placement with institutional investors;

o public offering on the domestic capital market. privatisation of BANC POST S.A., a Privatisation Contribute has been appointed by Government Decision. The Financial Advisor is the Consortium of of ABN AMRO Securities, Pricewagerhouse Coopers, Clifford Chance and Nestor & Nestor. The stage package of up to 45% is destined to be acquired by two investors, acting individually or in concert, and prepared to become active shareholders and to support the Bank in developing its activities in the Romanian market for financial services.

BANC POST S.A., with the Headquarters in Romania, Bucharest, Bd.Libertatii nr.18, sector 5. Trade Register no.: 14090/52/1991
Tel.: (401) 311.06.06, 311.06.04
Fax: (401) 400.11.28

Display capital:

Display capital:

Display capital:

Number of shares issued: 104,100,075 at a par value of ROL 1,000 apiece.

Structure of the shareholdings as of 30 lune 1993;
 70% beneficially owned, on behalf on the State, by the State Ownership Fund;
 30% owned, in equal proportions (6% each), by two financial investments companies ("SIFs").

Q. Retail network: 113 own outlets in the main urban centres and 2500 post offices providing banking services. Q Timover I January - 30 June 1998 : ROL 897,065.34 million.

u Profit and loss account (according to IAS, ROL million): 1998 (30 June) unaudited 264,061 370,193 132,986 Profit, pre-tex 86,940 209,781 163,932 Profit, after-tax

Rate of exchange as of 30 June 1998: ROL 8,670/USD.

a Anditor : Deloitte & Touche

The interested investors are invited to express their interest in written form, through letters of intent comprising at least the following information:

a) identification of the natural/legal person;
b) profile of activity, main lines of business and volume of business carried out over the last year;
c) copy of the most recent audited Annual Report and Accounts;
d) size of the solicited share package.

The letter of insent will be drawn up in either the Romanian or English language and will be submitted, in three copies, the latest by 27 August, 1997 at 17.00 local time (15:00 GMT), in sealed cavelopes addressed to:

Privatisation Committee of BANC POST Atlention: Mrs. Cristiana Gociu, Chairpers elo State Ownership Fund Str. Starropoleos m. 6, cod 70003, sector 3 Bucharest, Romania

The tender book for the submission of binding buying proposals will be available as from I September 1998 to all potential investors having soficited individual share packages of up 20% and to reputable mechanism limancial banking institutions wishing to acquire individual packages of more than 20%. The release of the tender book is conditional upon the payment of a fee of US\$ 10,000 and the signing of a confidentiality agreement.

Binding buying proposals, drawn up according to the requirements of the tender book, will be accepted until 30 September 1998.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

T the American Contract A Bridge League's Summer Nationals the strong team captained by a veteran expert, Bill Root of Boca Raton, Florida, seeded 23d, led by 60 imps going into the final 16 deals of a Spingold Knockout match. They then lost 84 imps, losing by 24 to Jim Reiman of Mans-field, Ohio; Frederick Allenspach of Potomac, Maryland; William Doroshow of Skokie, Illinois, and James Ward of

Champaign, Illinois, who The remarkable deal shown in the diagram helped SOUTH the Reiman foursome achieve **♠** A 10 its Spingold victory. West felt confident in doubling four hearts, but was disillusioned

by Ward's play with the South cards, East's bid of two hearts was Michaels, showing spades and a minor suit, and he passed the double of four hearts with some reluctance. The opening cloh lead was won with the ace, and South

> NORTH **♠** Q 9 4 K WEST EAST **4** 37 was forced to ruff, and did the best he could by leading the spade six. Ward was forced to

led a low heart, winning with fensive strength. Making four durancy's nine and discover- hearts doubled gained Ward ing the trump split. A diamond was led to the king, and important step on the road to a West took his ace and returned the suit. South won with the jack in dummy, threw a spade on the diamond

queen and ruffed a diamond. The heart queen was led and allowed to win. When the jack was led West took the • K6 king and returned the suit. South won, cashed his last trump and reached the ending shown at left. South led his club, and West

guess, and guessed right by putting up the queen. He re-

membered East's hesitant pass

correctly that East had no de-

and his teammates 11 imps, an remarkable victory. NORTH(D) 9 Q J 9 7 6 5 4 K 6 3 2

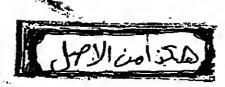
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CribTech

A Free Bike for Everyone: **Amsterdam Tries It Again**

Idealist Gives a High-Tech Twist to an Old Idea

By Charles Truehart Washington Post Service

MSTERDAM — If the Dutch love for bicycles has a leading man, he is probably Luud Schimmelpennink, who is to a pair of bike wheels what Hans Brinker is in literature to a pair of skates.

To an aging generation of people here, his name recalls a bygone era of high ideals and of one fuzzy but noble plan to improve urban life.

He was the long-haired anarchist who pioneered the idea 30 years ago of sup-plying the people of Amsterdam with free bicycles. His idea went like this: Bicycles, to be

regarded as the property of all, would be leaned against lampposts for the taking riding and then leaving against another lamppost for the next rider. The white bicycles were wheeled out for public use. They were soon gone,

either stolen or wrecked Mr. Schimmelpennink is still around,

undannted but with less hair, and he is still dreaming about bicycles. He has come full circle, in a way, by

recycling the same impractical but lovely idea; a free supply of white bicycles whose coming and going is ruled this time more efficiently than before — by a cbeck-in system using smart cards, all assisted by on-board computers tucked inside the strange-looking bikes be has designed. Now 62, Mr. Schimmelpennink runs

a socially conscious industrial design company, Y-Tech Innovation Center. It is in a building whose occupants tend to be inventors of unusual things.

Mr. Schimmelpennink has concentrated on socially conscious transportation. In a room off his work space is the shell of an old electric vehicle he

championed in 1974. It is such an antique that he's restoring it. On the drawing boards are photographs of a new, allweather bicycle - rain gear with wheels - which is now being tested.

Now be is surrounded by a small fleet of a new "people's wheels" designed in his shop: A little wheel in front and a big one in the back. Bright yellow plastic covers over the spokes. A torsion bar made larger to accommodate an on-board generator and computer. No ex-tras other than lights fore and aft.

The design makes it less prone to abuse, Mr. Schimmelpennink said. And the ugly bike is unlikely to be stolen. 'Even if you painted it red, everyone would know what it is," be said.

The Netherlands has more bicycles than its 15 million people and more than any other country per capita, says the Dutch road association. More than a million bikes are bought annually, the majority by women.

The flatness of the Netherlands, the density of its population — the highest in Europe — and the compactness of its urban centers make bicycles a sensible

means of transportation.
(By the way, Mr. Schimmelpennink gave up his car in 1969.)

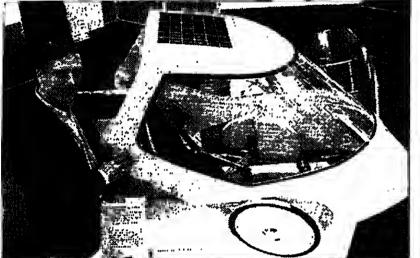
Mr. Schimmelpennink said he has been pleased by the state-subsidized pilot program for his "white bike" rejuvenation this summer.

A six-station network, he said, will extend the municipally approved ex-

periment in the autumn. Perhaps 15 stations will be operating next year, 45 the next, and then eventually 150 in this city of a million

people.

That is the critical mass that he feels is required to get people to use the system for rides of an average of 10 minutes, for sbopping trips or for nights out.



Luud Schimmelpennink, '60s advocate of communal bike property, shown with one of his designs, a pedal-and-solar-power vehicle.

ALT /Commentary

Humans: Intel Inside?

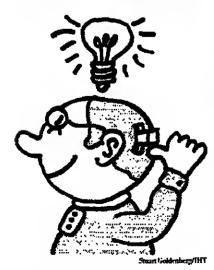
Biological Computing Aims to Outwit Nature

By Rob Fixmer New York Times Service

TE HUMANS have been trying to accelerate our own evolution for millennia, and while in some ways we appear to be getting away with it, biological computing could well test the forbearance of Mother Nature.

Until now, the most ambitious efforts to outwit natural selection have been cloning and the Human Genome Project, which sets out to map the results of random mutation and natural selection on our collective genetic inheritance.

Scientists embark on these projects not out of mere curiosity but with the



hope of remaking ourselves into or-ganisms more fit for survival than our

But photocopying genes and building a repair manual for them are only ways of tinkering with natural selection. Far more ambitious are efforts to meld machines and living cells being undertaken now in several areas of research.

Consider the work of researchers at British Telecommunications PLC in the area of implanted chips. One project, somewhat ominously dubbed "Soul Catcher," seeks to develop a computer that can be implanted in the brain to complement burnan memory and computational skills.

It would enable the gathering of extrasensory information — in this case, data transmitted by wireless networking. This area of research may seem far-fetched, but it is really the logical extension of devices such as pacemakers, ocular implants, which simulate hearing for the deaf, and neurostimulators, which send small electrical charges through nerves to alleviate certain kinds In a metaphorical sense, the morphing

of man and machine is already taking place. Among Silicon Valley digitheads, the human brain and its products are commonly alluded to as "wetware," while intelligence is expressed in 'bandwidth.'

At the same time that electronics is making its way into the human body, biological organisms are instructing chip design. British Telecom is investing in Soul Catcher not only for the long-term potential of brain-chip implants but on the assumption that, conversely, the workings of the human central nervous system can teach chipmakers a thing or two about net-

work efficiency. Biology is already invading computer architecture. Two professors at the University of Rochester in New York collaborated two years ago in building a rudimentary device that uses nucleotides to perform functions typically handled

by transistors in a silicon processor. In Santa Clara, California, engineers at a company called Affymetrix are making computer chips containing

DNA to diagnose genetic mutations. Will the merging of machine and organism bypass evolutioo, or is it merely an extension of the evolutionary

process? In some ways, the spread of the Internet suggests that people are already on the threshold of a major evolutionary step

as information-processing organisms. Communication over the Internet breaks old time and space bounds, allowing those who are connected to share, interactively, an enormous and growing wealth of information. The technology itself is quickly evolving into a sort of global nervous system.

In the end, perhaps the most frightening question in these futuristic visions of the mind-machine meld is who or what can be entrusted to run the sys-

tem. Windows 2028, anyone?

Rob Fixmer is a technology writer and editor for The New York Times.

We're Ready for Your Close-Up

Z PRICOSIONAL SI NORE DE RANGRO...

in England, at the Computer Clothing Research Centre, people are photographed side and front with a digital camera. The fiftyplus measurements become the basis for digital mannequins customers use to "try on"



Sources: Stephan Gray, TC 2; Air Force Research Laboratory

Body scanners for "mass customized" clothing come in three types:

The key measurements needed to after standard patterns to fit individuals are extracted automat ically. This image is from a machine developed byTC2,a research center for the apparel industry.

The scan takes 17 seconds. Before a garment is actually cut, the customer may have the option of a virtual try-on, draping the prospective dress or shirt on a personal, threedimensionally scanned image.



Finding the Right Fit With a 3-D Body Scan

A Developing Technology to Mass Customize Clothes May Change the Fashion Industry

By Anne Eisenberg New York Times Service

TEW YORK - "Made to measure" garments once meant a shirt, suit or gown made by a tailor for the wealthy few. In time, that custom fit may be readily available for the average mall shopper as well, thanks to the technology behind three-dimensional body scans.

Within a year or so, experts say, some consumers are likely to find such computer scans available at a handful of locations. Technology being developed in the fashioo industry in the United States and abroad is likely to make socalled mass customization a commoo

reality rather than an oxymoron.
"We have the capability," said
Stepben Gray, head of the Computer Clothing Research Center at Nottingham Trent University in England. "If people have been through our body scanners, we can have their data on a smart card that gives the retailer all the information occessary to fit the individuals, who can, in turn, use the Internet to look at fabrics and position the garment on a personalized mannequin of their body type." Right oow, body scanners can be

attering of research sites and Hollywood special effects studios. While clothing manufacturers and retailers are intensely interested in the new technology, they are aware of the many roadblocks on the way to consumer acceptance.

One problem is what Dick Yardley, a manufacturing technology specialist at the American Apparel Manufacturers Association, calls the modesty factor: Some people don't want to know what they look like in a body stocking. You're not going to get them to strip down to get their picture taken."

There are, too, the inevitable glitches that will occur when consumers trust the same technology to design their clothes that bas created a new meaning for the word "bug" and threatens worldwide disruptions in 2000.

"The technology is amazing," said Andree Conrad, editor of Apparel In-dustry Magazine, "but inevitably problems will occur. And, granted that the fit is far better than off-the-rack, will consumers be willing to pay for it? The American public is so price-conscious

that it has pushed the cost of garments way down."
Eric Blackwood, vice president at

J.C. Penney's, a nationwide chain of department stores, agrees that price is the defining issue for the American mar-

"Europeans are willing to spend more for their clothing than Americans," he said. "When yoo customize, the cost is higher. We think the scanners have tremendous potential, but it's not going to happen tomorrow for us. We have to refine the process to get the scanning and manufacturing costs down to what the customer is

willing to pay and shrink the scanners,

Still, manufacturers and retailers, many of office clothes market, are starting to come forward to embrace the body scanner, bulky though it may be. Homi Patel, the president and chief operating officer of Hart, Schaffner & Marx, the

largest mannfacturer of men's clothing in the United States, is working in conjunction with a research center in Cary, good people. It uses a system of side North Carolina, that has developed its OWN SCANDER.

"Probably we'll work with department stores to have scanning equipment available and then connected directly into our management information systems to develop custom garments at quick speeds," Mr. Patel said. "True, the scanning machines won't have the charm of a good salesman. But people will get acclimatized. Young people will have no trouble."

Even if body scanning is slow to spread to mass markets, accurate information on body shape could have a profound effect on the clothing industry. "Even in the shops," Mr. Gray pointed out, "fit is going to be better as we acquire more accurate data about our body shapes."

Brooks Brothers has had striking success during the past year with its fledgling shirt customization program, which it began last Angust. "If yoo have the ability to give people exactly what they want, it's a differentiator," said Joe

Dixon, senior vice president for mannfacturing at Brooks.

For new, customers for custom shirts are fitted the traditional way, with a tape measure. Theo software adapts the standard Brooks Brothers pattern to specific measurements - for instance, making one sleeve longer than the other — before the material is cut and sewn. Delivery is promised in about two weeks; prices start at \$75.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the level of business we've generated," Mr. The company is talking to body scan-

Mr. Dixon said, "We One day digital just need to make sure that when a customer fashion may also comes in and has to strip. to underwear, provide a the customer psychological asset --wants to do a way for shoppers to Both two- and try on clothes three-dimensional scanners are being without specifying

used for the body size or weight. are the basis for mass customization. In. profiles and front outlines that is less

expensive than point-to-point three-dimensional scanning.
Full-color, whole body, three-dimensional scanning is also being used by the U.S. Air Force. After all, pilots wear

clothing too, and helmets. "Everyone is interested." said Kathleen Robinette, an anthropologist and mathematician at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, who is managing the Civilian American and European Surface Anthropometry Resource, called Caesar, the first whole body three-di-

mensional scanning project. (Anthro-pometry is the study of human body measurements.) "The technology will be applied in ways that haven't even been imagined she said. Caesar will measure 10,800 males and females of varying weights and ages, 4,000 of them in the

United States and 6,800 in Europe. "We're going to learn for the first time what we're shaped like," she said. The data will help us create realistic

computer mannequins to build made-tomeasure garments on. It will yield many software tools for the design and production of customized clothing." The U.S. armed forces have been

interested in body measurement since the 1930s because of its responsibility. for uniforms and specialized protective equipment such as helmets and gas masks that must fit properly.

In 1987, Wright Patterson Air Force. Base acquired an adaptation of a head-i scanning system used in the movies for special effects. "We developed software not only to drive the scanner and analyze the data, but for applications related to apparel," Ms. Robinette said.

The data became the basis for tightly. fitting fighter pilot helmets, oxygen, masks and night vision goggles, among other items. "Now we're moving on from head scans to full-body ones," Ms., Robinette said. "Our last full-scale survey was done in 1939, and a lot has changed since then — people's bodies; even our concept of fit."

The Caesar project is expected to yield data useful across industries. Parts ners inclode not only apparel firms like Lee Co., Levi Stranss & Co. and Vanity, Fair Inc., but also Boeing Co., Cater I pillar Inc. and other companies with an interest how body shapes are changing.

ary Pollack of the Society of Automotive Engineers, which is coordinating many administrative functions for the huge project, said that so far, there had been no lack of volunteers to come and be scanned Everyone has the experience of sitting. in a car or airplane seat that is too small People want their dimensions looked at and used."

One day digital fashion may provide not only physical benefits like better fit, but a psychological asset as well - 2 way for shoppers to try on clothes with out specifying size or weight, two stack tistics many are loath to confront.

We hate to say our size. And every one — well, nearly everyone — lies about their weight," said Linda Freeds man, vice president of marketing for ModaCAD, a Los Angeles software company.

This month ModaCAD will offer a CD-ROM that lets young women shop for clothes by trying their selections on 3-D models of different body types.

BRIEFLY

• RUSH FOR NEW MAC: Apple Computer Inc. has received more than 150,000 orders for its new iMac Macintosh computer since the company began taking orders a week ago. The iMac. which is aimed at the consumer and education markets, goes on sale Saturday in the United States at a suggested retail price of \$1,299.

The iMac features a translucent green case, an integrated monitor and an illuminated mouse, and some analysts have estimated that the company could sell more than a million of the new machines in their first year.

"I think it will go nots in the fourth quarter," said Kimball Brown, an analyst with Dataquest, who said his only reservation concerned Apple's reliance on a new connection method, called USB, for printers, floppy disk drives and other peripheral devices.

The use of USB, which stands for



Apple Computer's new iMac.

universal system bus, means the iMac cannot connect directly to older printers, for example,

• TESTING 2000: Wall Street passed a preliminary test of its readiness for the year 2000 "with flying colors" last month, according to Donald Kittell, executive vice president of the Securities Industry Association.

ted mock trades of stocks, bonds and options, testing conditions on Dec. 30 and Dec. 31, 1999, and Jan. 3 and Jan. 4, 2000 (Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 are a weekend). Computers at stock exchanges and securities-processing firms handled the date transition without major problems. A handful of glitches popped up, but most were corrected on the same day that they occurred, according to industry spokesmen.

The test was intended to see whether computers programmed with years coded in two digits would mishandle data when confronted with "00," representing the year 2000. Expanded tests are planned for next spring.

 MICROSOFT MOVE: Steven A. Ballmer came to Silicon Valley last week offering peace, love and local tax payments. Mr. Ballmer, the oew president of Microsoft Corp., announced that his company, based in Redmond. Washington, would set up a satellite headquarters in a 32-acre corporate

campus in Mountain View, California Mr. Ballmer is renowned for being the field marshal of Microsoft's aggressive and highly effective marketing efforts, which have often left Silicon Valley littered with casualties. And not lost on anyone is the fact that Microsoft is moving into the hometown of Netscape Communications Corp., whose David-and-Goliath struggle with Microsoft is at the heart of the government's antitrust suit against Mr. Ballmer's company.

Microsoft, which already has 800 employees scattered in offices throughout Silicon Valley, will move those people into the Mountain View campus. A larger presence in Silicon Valley, industry executives said, could help Microsoft recruit people from the region's talent pool. "A lot of people who live in the valley are religious about the place, 'said Roger McNamee, genthe place, 'said Roger Mental Partners, eral partner of Integral Capital Partners, an investment firm in Menlo Park, Cali(NYT) The 28 trading firms that took part an inve-executed about 40,000 carefully scrip-fornia.

TECHNOLOGY INDEX A glance at technology stock indexes around the world % change year to date Pacific Stock Exchange +16.30 Technology Standard & Poor's 896.81 + 28.13 Technology Composite Morgan Stanley 615.53 n.a. Topix Electric 1781.43 +6.93 Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at http://www.iht.com. Articles include:

- Will Magic Ink Erase the Computer Screen?,
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 You Have Meil—and a Security Flaw, Aug. 8-9 * Eudora's Ramedy: A Web Patch, Aug. 8-9 Court Rebutts Microsoft on Source Code and
 - Testimony, Aug. 8-9 Blocking Pomo Spain: Some Measures You Cain
 - * Tech Firms Set to Team Up on 'Global' Phone Chip, Aug. 10

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT technology coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@int.com.

• WEB RAGE: If a painfully slow downloading of a Web page has ever made you want to destroy your computer, you are not alone.

According to a report last week by NetRatings, the average home Internet user in the United States wastes more than nine minutes per day, or 55 hours per year, waiting for Web pages to load 26 percent of all time spent on the Internet. Multiply that by a conservative measure of 43.1 million Internet users in the United States, and the grim total is 2.4 billion hours wasted annually.

"If you only waste 9 or 10 minutes a day, you're in good shape," said Ray Valdes, research director for Internet strategies at the Gartner Group. "The fact is, the average Internet user is acCustomed to a high level of pain."

Overzealons Web site designers;

overburdened Web servers and underpowered home computers all contribute to the pain. The ramifications reach far beyond users, however, into the pock? etbooks of Web site owners, Internet service providers and advertisers alike

analysts say. NetRatings, a Web audience mess urement firm in California, said that home users must wait an average of as seconds for text and graphics to load. During business hours, when Web traffic is at its highest, it can be even slower. Keynote Systems Inc., an incleanet research firm, reports that the average wait per page for Web surfers of the office is around 19 seconds. (N) II

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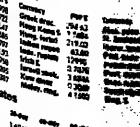
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Yen's Rally Gives Relief To Markets

But Traders Are Wary That Reprieve Won't Last

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

TOKYO - Ko Haruki, a chief trader at HSBC Midland Bank, was staring at his computer terminal Wednesday morning, digesting warnings from se-nior Finance Ministry officials that Japan might step into the currency mar-kets to rescue the weakening yen.

The dollar was selling for a bit more than 147 yea, and its price was slowly rising. Then suddenly the screen flashed that the dollar had abruptly dropped to 145.40 yen. Mr. Haruki quickly began working the phones to find out why the price had suddenly shifted. First he learned of a market rumor of intervention by Japan's central bank. But then he heard from a trader at another bank that foreign buyers, possibly American hedge funds, had placed a

massive order to buy yen.

Thus the recent rapid fall of the yen, which sent global stock markets plunging Tuesday, was temporarily halted. Analysts said that the pause might ease the remit that the pause th might ease the panic that gripped mar-kets worldwide when the Asian crisis showed its most visible spillover into America and other distant nations. But because economic fundamentals are not improving in Japan - in fact bankruptcies are accelerating and banking problems growing — the respite will probably be short-lived, they said.

The dollar hovered around 145 year on Wednesday. Wary traders watched for signs of intervention from the central bank or hedge funds. While most traders said they did not expect intervention, they said they had become cantious ever since the dollar rose above 147 yen, In June, when the dollar rose and the yen fell that far, the United States and Japan jointly entered the currency markets to boost the yen. Many speculators holding dollars lost a lot of money.

'For the rest of the week I don't think the dollar will get much stronger," Mr. Haruki said Wednesday, But he said that the longer-term trend was for the yea to continue weakening. "Given the weak Asian economy, this is not the time to

The sudden and unexpected strengthening of the yen belped other Asian markets. The Malaysian ringgit, the Indonesian rupiah and the Thai baht all rose by more than 1 percent against the dollar. The currencies of Singapore and Taiwan rose slightly. The Korean won bank intervened to support the peso, according to Reuters.

The stock markets were up in Hong Kong as the Hang Seng Index rose 1.17 percent to 6,859.48, and in Malaysia by 2.24 percent. But the stock market fell in South Korea by 1.9 percent. The market

was closed in Thailand : The Nikkei 225 index in Tokyo fell for an eighth straight trading day. It closed down 0.18 percent, at 15,378.97.

: Japan's most recent stock-market decline was led by increasing pessimism over bank stocks. In addition, a number of Japanese

companies have released discouraging earnings reports in recent weeks. Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi has

promised tax cuts of more than \$41 billion and a new stimulus package of \$69 billion. But those packages will not take effect for several months. The government plans to spend another \$27 billion on stimulus programs in the fis-cal year starting in April, Agence

France-Presse reported.

Meanwhile, Mr. Obuchi's bank reform bills are blocked by opposition parties in Parliament.

The government's main plan for dealing with bank failures is a "bridge bank" system, which would enable the overnment to continue to operate failed banks for five years. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa,

testifying in Parliament Wednesday, said he was opposed to a "hard landing" approach to bank insolvencies.

Special correspondent Akiko Kashiwagi contributed to this report.



A worker clearing weeds at an empty shopping center in Ogdensburg, New York, near the Canadian border.

Currency Goes South; Canadians Don't

By Iver Peterson New York Times Service

OGDENSBURG, New York - It is high summer in the North Country of New York state, with the back-to-school shopping season fast approach-ing. Time for local business people to reminisce about the days not so long ago when the Canadians flocked across the border as dependably as the swallows to Capistrano.

They would show up with empty suitcases and literally no spare clothes, and they would do all their clothes shopping in one afternoon," said Norman Garrelts, the president of Hacketts, a department store here, recalling a nearby store he once managed. "At the end of the day, the parking lot would be covered with empty shopping bags." Now the Canadians are staying away.

The Canadian dollar has fallen to its lowest level since World War II, and the commercial fortunes of dozens of towns along the border have fallen with it.

of the United States-Canada border, the Canadian side is more populous, and shopping by Canadians, who were drawn across the border by lower sales taxes, longer shopping hours and often more choices, has formed an important part of local markets on the American side.

Since the Canadian dollar began to plummet, however, trips by Canadians to New York state, by far the higgest destination for Canadians, declined by 9.3 percent, to 2.4 million trips in 1997 from 2.6 million in 1996, according to Statistics Canada, a government agency. Canadian spending in the United States declined for each of the three consecutive quarters ending in March.

We have three shopping centers. and one is derelict, one is struggling and the third is half-full," Mr. Garrelts said. "We were just over-stored, and it was all based on getting the Canadian dollar."
The effects of the Canadian dollar's

drop have been felt all along the snaking border. At the Bellisfair Mall in Bellingham, Washington, business is down 5 it is as if half the people around here percent to 10 percent, according to Genhad suddenly moved away. Along most cral Growth Properties, which owns the

In Maine, towns that had refashioned themselves as French Canadian tourist destinations, complete with signs in French, are also feeling the pinch, said Vanghn Stinson, executive director of the Maine Publicity Bureau. "It's really

been very, very soft," he said. For most Americans, the decline in Canadian spending in the United States may mean little more than a drop in the number of Canadian quarters, pennies and dimes that show up in their pocket change, But people in the North Country, as the four New York counties that border the St. Lawrence River are known, have close ties to Canada.

Not surprisingly, people here fullow the value of the Canadian dullar the way farmers watch the weather. Driven down hy the low worldwide demand for Canadian commodities, which is partly a function of the Asian economic crisis, the value of the Canadian dollar has fallen from a high of 89.3 U.S. cents in 1990 to 66 cents, a loss of 26 percent of the Canadian dollar's purchasing power in the United States.

WWW.

U.K. Gets Positive News On Avoiding Inflation

Central Bank May Be Able to Forgo Rate Rise

By Tom Buerkle

LONDON - Britain's economic prospects appeared to hrighten Wednesday after the government announced a significant easing in the growth of workers' earnings in June, even as the country's already-low unemployment rate continued to fall.

The positive economic news was reinforced by the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report, which indicated that the central bank believed it would not need in raise interest rates further in order to bring inflation under control.

The news was welcomed by industry and financial markets as a sign that the authorities would succeed in slowing the economy enough to get inflation dnwn without triggering a full-blown

"I think rates have peaked," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International. He said the central hank's Monetary Policy Committee could reduce short-term interest rates from the current level of 7.5 percent as early as November, depending no how quickly the recent slowdown in economic growth feeds through to lower infla-

That view appeared to hold sway in financial markets as the pound eased to 2.8915 Deutsche marks from 2.9088

DM on Tuesday. The pound has risen by nearly 25 ercent against the mark nver the past two years, in large part because of Britain's high interest rates, which make it attractive for foreign investors to hald the British currency.

The pound's strength has hurt Britain's manufacturing exporters, leading to a string of laynff announcements in recent weeks and increasingly strong criticism of the central bank by industry and trade unions.

But the Office of National Statistics said Wednesday that the number of people claiming unemployment benefits fell by 26,000 in July to a total of 1.335 million, or 4.7 percent of the labor force. Most economists had expected a

Average earnings rose by 5.0 percent in May from a year earlier, down from an annual rate of 5.4 percent in April. The central bank justified its last rate increase in June on the strong growth of earnings, which officials fear could fan inflation, so the slowdown was signif-

Mervyn King, the central bank's deputy governor with responsibility for monetary policy, called the figures "a step in the right direction," although he warned that earnings grnwth remained above the 4.5 percent rate that the bank considers the maximum that its constant of the constant considers the maximum that is compatible with getting inflation down to the target of 2.5 percent.

Mr. King said signs of economic slowdown were spreading from manufacturing to services.

Laura Ashley Takes First-Half Charge As CEO Steps Down

LONDON -- Laura Ashley Huldings PLC said Wednesday it would take a £2.5 million (\$4.1 million) charge against first-half results for restructurng and that David Hoare would step down as chief executive officer.

The moves will complete the first phase of a three-phase plan to save the retailer from possible insolvency. Mr. Hoare is to be succeeded Friday by Victoria Egan, currently deputy chief executive.

Group Finance Director Richard Pennycook will leave the company after first-half results are released Oct. 1. The company said current trading has been stable and in line with its expectations.

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The company has posted losses in four of the past eight years as several chief executives have wrestled with the fading popularity of its flowery clothing. An attempt to lift profit by a rapid expansion in North America added to losses and forced the company to sell its goods at heavy discounts.

'It seem to me they're asking us to take a great deal on trust and there isn't a lnt nf trust in the market at the moment," said Peter Junes, an analyst at Peel Hunt & Co. "I suspect we'll need a lot more hard evidence."

ECONOMIC SCENE

Wealth-Shock Scenario Poses Danger to Growth

By Clay Chandler on Post Service

WASHINGTON - When Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, issued his now famous warning that "irrational exuberance" had driven U.S. stock prices to dangerously high levels, the buils on Wall Street scoffed. Why, they demanded, should swings in the stock market have any effect on the economy?

But nearly two years later, with the Dow Jones industrial average wobbling at an altitude thousands of points higher, that question is prompting new debate. A small but growing number of econ-

omists and market experts are beginning to worry about the danger of a "wealth shock," in which a sudden drop in share prices spooks investors, prompting them to sharply rein in spending. Since personal consumption ac-counts for about two-thirds of the total

economy, the theory goes, a pronounced souring of sentiment could drag down

This notion is a departure from traditional thinking that large movements in share prices do not have a significant impact on consumer behavior. But proponents of the wealth-shock scenario argue that there are a number of reasons to re-examine the old assumptions:

· More Americans than ever now

own stock. About one in four households owns stocks directly, according to most recently available data from the Federal Reserve.

• The value of Americans' stock holdings is larger than ever. In 1998, the value of stocks owned by U.S. households, either directly or through a company retirement program, topped \$13 trillion, according to the Fed. That's up from only \$4 hillion since the end of the last recession in 1991. Stocks have not risen so much in terms of personal wealth in so short an interval at any time since the Fed economists began collecting the data in the 1940s.
In 1998, the value of stocks held

directly or indirectly by U.S. house-holds was more than double the value of their annual disposable income. In 1991, stockholdings amounted to only 0.8 percent of household disposable in-

 Recent advances in information technology, including the Internet, cell phones, pagers and the advent of round-the-clock financial coverage on tele-vision, have made it possible for even small investors to track minute flucmations in the value of their stockholdings. Economists puzzling over the U.S.

economy's robust expansion have de-See WEALTH, Page 13

Aug. 12

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CHATEAU DE LA GAGNOTTERIE	TUTOR TIME www.lulgrime.com	AGMI LUCURY REAL ESTATE	French and Cookery courses http://3ponts.edu
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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

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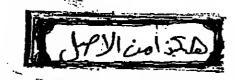
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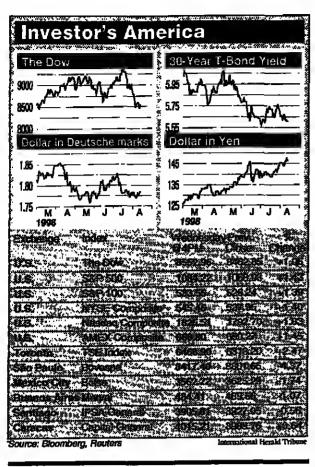
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Very briefly:

• Lamar Advertising Co., a major U.S. billboard company, plans to buy Outdoor Communications Inc. for \$385 million in cash and assumed debt, winning one of the last big closely held outdoor advertisers.

⇒ Bell Atlantic Corp. reached a tentative labor agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers a day after it ended a strike with its largest union, Communications Workers of America.

• Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut its ratings for Golden Books Family Entertainment Inc.'s debt worth \$265 mildion. The agency also put the publisher oo review for further possible downgrades to reflect the company's worsening financial health.

Compaq Computer Corp. bought the rights to the Alta-Vista trademark and Internet domain name from closely held AltaVista Technology Inc. for an undisclosed amount. According to published reports, the price for the address www.altavista.com was \$3.35 million. Compaq owns a popular Internet search engine that is also named AltaVista.

• Seagram Co.'s fourth-quarter profit more than doubled to, \$324 million, inflated by a \$493 million gain from selling the last of its shares in Time Warner Inc. AP, Bloomberg

The Trib Index			New York time.		
Lavel	Changa	% change	year to date %change		
184.73	+ 1,55	+ 0.85	+ 7.33		
72.47	— 0.41	— 0.56	24.57		
222.60	+ 2.50	+ 1.14	+ 15.31		
247.21	+ 2.73	+ 1.12	+ 14.45		
108.79	— 3.01	— 2.69	- 28.74		
250.41	+ 3.29	+ 1.33	+ 21.22		
221.65	+ 1.25	+ 0.57	+ 5.68		
183.32	1.81	0.98	— 5.97		
132.67	+ 2.07	+ 1.58	+ 7.90		
142.36	— 1.47	— 1.02	— 5.02		
172.16	+ 0.65	+ 0.38	+ 2.94		
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AMEX

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close The 200 most traded slocks of the day, up to the closing on Woll Street.
The Associated Press.

GeoCities Investors Leap at IPO - on Faith

By Saul Hansell

NEW YORK - Never have so many pictures of puppies been worth so much Investors clamored to buy the stock of Geo-Cities on Tuesday, despite a falling market.
What GeoCities does is to give, currently,

2.1 million people free pages on the World Wide Web. The people generally fill their pages with stuff like pictures of their children and their pets. GeoCities has yet to show that it

can make money this way.
On Wednesday, GeoCities' shares closed at \$43,0625, up \$5.75 on the day and up dramatically from the initial offering price of \$17. That values the company at \$1.3 billion.

Last year the company lost money on revenue of less than \$5 million.

GeoCities and companies like it hope to make money by placing ads on people's home pages as well as on the other pages that people see as they navigate around the service. Bot advertisers have been skeptical of gambling on home-grown content that at best is random.

The primary competitors for visitors and advertising dollars are the Internet contrivances known as portals, which combine free Web pages with e-mail, search facilities and other services and products to attract users.

The jump in the stock of GeoCities was all the more spectacular because of the sharp decline in the overall stock market and of Internet companies in particular. Shares of America

Online, Yahoo and Lycos all fell Tuesday.
Still, investors continued to show insatiable appetite for the initial offerings of Internet companies. Last month, the stock of Broadcast.com, which offers audio programs on the Internet, jumped 245 percent on its first day of

trading, the biggest debut increase ever.
The GeoCities offering was oversubscribed by 20 times, said one person involved in the

underwriting.
"GeoCities is a meaningful franchise with fantastic growth and good management," said Keith Benjamin, an analyst with BancAmerica Robertson Stephens, a brokerage firm that was not involved in the underwriting. "It's not obvious how profitable that franchise will be-

After the Fall, Bargain Hunters Move In

NEW YORK - Stocks rose Wednesday as investors looked for Tuesday. Relative calm in Asian markets and a rebound in Europe also aided sentiment.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 90.11 points higher at 8,552.96, and the Standard & Poor's

CalEnergy Buys **Iowa Company**

OMAHA, Nebraska —
CalEnergy Co. agreed Wednesday to buy MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., Iowa's largest power company, for \$4 billion in cash, assumed debt and preferred stock, to gain a com-petitive edge as U.S. states open their markets to competition. CalEnergy will pay \$27.15 a

MidAmerican share in cash and assume \$1.4 billion of Mid-American debt. MidAmerican shares rose \$5.3125 on Wednesday, to close at \$25,3125. The deal is subject to regulatory approval as well as shareholder approval. Comple-

tion of the merger is expected by the first quarter. CalEnergy, which owns Northern Electric PLC, a re-gional electricity supply and distribution company in corthern England, said the transac-

tion would enhance its earnings

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

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in the first year.

500 index finished up 15.24 points at after the maker of desktop graphics its consumer software business.

1,084.22. Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 2-to-1 ratio quarter loss and would fire up to 300 accounting fraud that has forced it to bargains after major indexes fell on on the New York Stock Exchange.

Treader Relative calm in Asian "We've had a substantial cor-

rection, and the average stock is fairly valued here," said George

U.S. STOCKS

Mairs, president of Mairs & Power Inc. "Yesterday we saw an over-reaction to the Asian situation."

The Dow lost more than 250 points Tuesday before rebounding to close with a loss of 112 points. "The psychology of buying oo the dips is still in place," said Robert Freedman, chief investment officer at John Hancock Funds. "Investors are afraid they'll miss a bottom, even

if it's temporary. People aren't panicking and throwing in the towel." Treasury bond prices slipped as tamer trading in Asian markets reduced the demand for U.S. securities as a refuge. The price of the benchmark 30-year issue fell 5/32 point to

107 10/32, taking the yield up to 5.62 percent from 5.61 percent Tuesday. "When it looks like the world isn't coming to an end, bonds back off," said William Stevens, a bond manager at Montgomery Asset Management. Intel was the most actively traded U.S. issue, rising 1 1/16 to 85% after 147.365 yen Tuesday. the world's biggest chipmaker said it was scouting for new locations for

But Applied Materials fell 1/2 to 32 after reporting a 75 percent drop in carnings for its third quarter because of difficulty in Asia. Applied Materials is the largest producer of equipment that makes silicon wafers.

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and said it would consider the sale of

employees, or 10 percent of its staff, as Asia's slump slashes demand.

Cendant, a brand franchising and shopping club company, rose 2 to 16% after the company said it would sell its Hebdo Mag International unit the year from July 1.

(Bloomberg, AP)

Yen Stages Fragile Rally **Amid Fears of Intervention**

Bridge News

Wednesday from its eight-year high against the yen oo concerns that the Bank of Japan might surprise the market and support its currency.

Light profit-taking snowballed into more significant liquidation of

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

dollar holdings, and the U.S. currency tumbled to a low of 144.97 yen. The dollar was quoted at 146.285 yen at 4 P.M., down from

But the weak economic fundamentals in Japan persist, and dealers said that some investors took advantage of the dip to buy more dol-lars, helping the U.S. currency to

soch a move would have a lasting

"I just don't see what a Bank of NEW YORK - The dollar fell Japan intervention can possibly achieve," said Jerry Gleason, chief dealer at HYPO Bank in New York. Japanese officials are attempting

to talk up their battered currency any

way they can.
Japan's Finance Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, said he was planning to meet U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Robin on the first weekend

of September, The dollar was supported against the Deutsche mark by Russia's ecooomic troubles amid rumors that Russia might devalue the ruble and that a oumber of Russian banks might default.

The dollar quoted was at 1.7859 Deutsche marks, up from 1.7814 DM Tuesday. The dollar rose to 5.9935 French francs from 5.9705 While recognizing the risk of in-francs, but slipped to 1.4890 Swiss tervention, traders said they doubted francs from 1.4896 francs.

The pound weakened to \$1.6265

- Renewi Microsoft Depositions To Be Public

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - A federal judge has ruled that pretrial ques-tioning in government antitrust suits against Microsoft Corp. be open to the public, including the questioning of the company's chairman and chief executive, Bill Gates.

The decision Tuesday by Judge Thomas Jackson of the U.S. District Court here could postpone the trial, now scheduled to begin Sept. 8, because Microsoft, government lawyers and press organizations must work out the logistics of taking the pretrial depositions of more than

Microsoft said Wednesday it would appeal Judge Jackson's ruling. That may introduce a further

delay.
On Tuesday, Judge Jackson temporarily delayed all depositions in the case, including that of Mr. Gates, which was to begin Wednesday, until all sides can agree on arrange-

ments for public questioning.

Mr. Gates, the country's richest person, is known for being sharptongued with his critics. A forum in which he will answer extended questions under oath from people who are trying to force him to change his business practices is likely to draw intense interest from

the press.

Pretrial depositions in civil cases are oot usually open to the public.
But a law enacted by Congress in 1913 called the Publicity in Taking of Evidence Act requires depositions in cases brought under the Sherman Antitrust Act to "be open to the public as freely as are trials in open court."

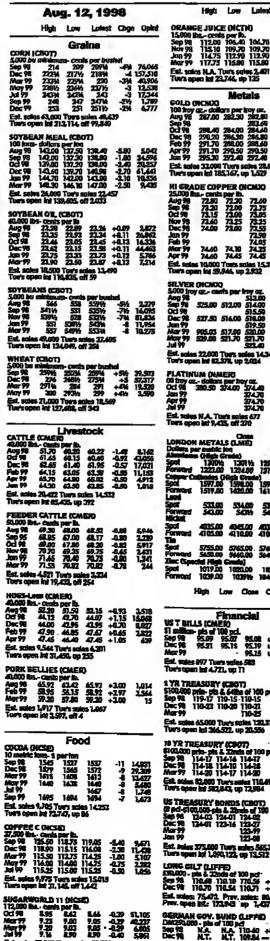
It is the Sherman Antitrust Act that the government alleges Mi-crosoft violates in its current business practices.

Several press organizations asked the judge to open the depositions. Microsoft opposed the request, saying the law was not intended to apply to cases such as the one against Microsoft. A lawyer representing the com-

pany, John Warden, also argued that opening the depositions could expose some of Microsoft's trade But a lawyer for several news.

organizations, Lee Levine, said antitust suits were "a very special category of cases, where the public is the real plaintiffs, and they should

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES



COFFEE C ONCSED

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE)
ITL 200 selfion - pts of 100 pct
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EUROPE

Russia Renews Vows To Stabilize Ruble

debt payments in an effort to re- itar-Tass. No reason was given for assure foreign investors and stabil- the move. ize the jittery stock market.

But the stock market continued its decline, with the benchmark Russian Trading System index closing 1.6 percent lower at 108.19, its lowest level since May 1996. The index fell 9.11 percent Tuesday and is down

more than 70 percent this year.
Investors fear the government will be unable to handle another assault on its markets and will be saying it refuses to borrow at rates of forced to lower the value of the more than 50 percent, ruble, which has been skidding Altogether, Russia must cover against the dollar.

Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov assured investors that payments in the next month. But that disappeared.

doesn't really inspire confidence. met with difficulties, but be expec-People are still worried about what ted improvement.

(Bloomberg, AP, AFP)

Concern that Russia's government will not fulfill its pledge to cut spending and increase tax collection is also making investors wary of buying Russian shares. A \$22.6 billion In-ternational Monetary Fund-led loan is contingent on the government's

fulfillment of the austerity plan.
Mr. Zadornov defended the government's commitment to the austerity program and to stabilizing the ruble, saying, "If we thought that devaluation was unavoidable, we would not be taking the measures we are taking now.

Mr. Zadornov said Russia expected to receive about \$4.3 billion more from the IMF in September. International leaders have warned Russia that international aid is in jeopardy if the country does not

stick with its reform plan. Chancellor Hehmit Kohl of Germany said Wednesday that "if the conditions aren't met on the ground," then Russia cannot expect to receive any more funds.

nesday canceled an extraordinary MOSCOW — Top Russian of- session called for later this month to ficials on Wednesday pledged anew to support the currency and to make package, a senior Duma leader told

> Mr. Zadornov said domestic debt payments this month would total no more than 13 billion rubles (2.08 billion) and that foreign debt pay-meots would total up to \$700 million. Russia is using \$1 billion of the \$4.8 billion IMF loan it already received

last month to help meet payments.

The government canceled its debt auction for a third week this week

about \$23.4 billion in domestic debt payments this year and an estimated \$3.5 billion to \$4.5 billion in foreign Russia would not default on its debt debt' payments. Russia's central payments in the next month. But that was not enough to convince investors that the risk of default had week earlier.

sappeared.

Mr. Zadornov said government efforts to improve tax collection and Commitments for a month," said narrow the budget deficit as deman-Tom Brackenbury, a trader at Mos- ded by the IMF and the Group of cow brokerage Rinaco Plus. "That Seven industrialized nations have



(Bloomberg, AP, AFP) A currency trader taking an order Wednesday in Moscow.

Daimler Joins Celsius in Missile Venture

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputcher

STOCKHOLM — Daimler-Benz Acrospace AG said Wednesday it had completed the creation of a venture with Celsius AB of Sweden to develop the Taurus air-to-ground mis- other customers in Europe and out- time to replace its own aging netsile, another step in the consolidation of Europe's defense industry.

Celsius said the deal could be a first step toward even closer ties, and it did not rule out a merger with a foreign defense company as the industry consolidated.

"As we are now in one important relationship, it would of course also be very logical to discuss other things," Lars Josefsson, chief executive of Celsius, said.

The venture, to be called Taurus

kflugkoerpersysteme GmbH, a unit of Daimler-Benz Aerospace.

for this type of missile is growing and side Europe," Mr. Josefsson said.

Separately, Britain pulled out of a plan to develop a satellite commo-"Our estimation is that the market nications network with Germany and France, saying it could not be we see a lot of future potential for assured of getting the satellites in work in 2005.(Bloomberg, Reuters)

EU Approves Psion's Venture

BRUSSELS - Psion PLC, a British palmtop computer maker, won European Union approval Wednesday for its venture with Nokia Oy of Finland and Ericsson AB of Sweden, the world's No. 2 and No. 3 mobilephone makers respectively, to develop software for computer-like mobile

The European Commission, the executive agency that enforces EU Systems GmbH, will be owned 33 antitrust policy, found after a one-month review that the vecture, called

Deal Creates Largest U.K. Liquor Chain

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatcher

LONDON - Whitbread PLC said Wednesday it would merge its Thresher liquor stores with Allied Domecq PLC's Victoria Wine stores to form the largest liquorstore chain in Britain.

The merged business, with about 3,000 branches, will put the companies in a better position to compete with Britain's large supermarket

Whitbread said that each of the parents would own half of the merged entity. It is expected to have sales of more than £1.3 billion (\$2.1 billion) a year, and is expected to have nearly 14 percent of Britain's take-home beverage market, just short of Tesco PLC, Britain's leading supermarket chain.

J. Sainsbury PLC, Britain's second-largest supermarket, has 12 percent of the market.

The merger will result in closure of some 300 shops over three years. a spokesman for Allied said.

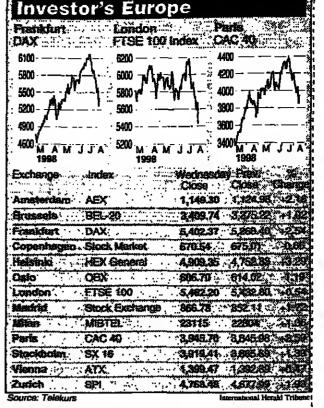
British supermarkets account for 60 percent of take-home alcobol sales, with most of the remainder coming from specialist liquor and convenience stores. Sopermarkets have eaten into liquor store sales significantly in recent years by of-

fering cheaper prices. Analysts said the deal was unlikely to attract the attention of competition authorities. Although it will bold a strong position among small retailers, supermarkets are an increasing force in the growing retail drinks sector.

Allied's Victoria Wine retail business includes the Victoria Wine, Victoria Wine Cellars, Haddows, Martha's Vineyard and The Firkin chains, while Whitbread's Thresher's operation runs Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, Thresher Wine Sbop, Drinks Cabin and Huttons.

Stephen Alexander, chief executive of Allied Domeco Retailing. will be chairman with Jerry Walton, managing director at Thresber, continuing that role in the new com-

Victoria Wine cootriboted some



Very briefly:

• British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC's pretax profit for the year ended in June fell 13.7 percent to £271 million (\$442.4 million) due to preparations for the launch of its digital television service and to a contract for broadcasting rights for Eoglish Premier League soccer matches.

 Novo Nordisk A/S's pretax profit rose 46 percent in the first half to 1.99 billion krooer (\$292.9 million) and the Danish pharmaceutical group announced a plan to buy back its own shares for up to 3 billion kroner.

 Denmark posted a trade surplus of 434 million kroner in May, down from 1.07 billion kroner in April and 2.34 billion in May 1997, according to the National Statistics Institute. • KLM Royal Duteb Airlines NV will spend 984.4 million guilders (\$490.3 million) to buy back shares, bolstering earn; ings per share as recessions in Asia dim the profit outlook. . CGU PLC, the British insurer, recorded pretax profit of

as weather-related claims more than doubled. Scandinavian Airlines System's pretax profit rose to 1.45 billion Swedisb kronor (\$181 million) in the first half of 1998, up 30.6 percent from a year ago. AFP, Reuters, Bloombers

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£267 million in the first half, down 58 percent from a year ago,

ABB Restructures to Cut Costs

ZURICH — ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., the world's £13 million to Allied's pretax profit largest electrical engineering company, said Wednesday that it of £607 million last year while would reorganize its business to cut costs. The Swiss-Swedish Thresher provided £11.9 million of company said it would split its industrial and building systems

	But Russia's lower house of Par- liament, the State Duma, on Wed-	ofors Mis- LFK-Len- Symbian, will not threaten fair competition in munications market, the commission spokesman	h Europe's mobile-com- , Costas Verros, said. Thresher provided £11.9 million of Whitbread's £355 million year profit. (Bloomberg, Reuters)	unit into three divisions and split its power transmission unit into two entities, dismantling its current regional structure.
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Bank of Japan Ltd., the second nonperforming loans both at LTCB largest of the nation's three long-term credit banks, had its debt rating Waterhouse, banking analyst at cut to "junk" on Wednesday by Moody's Investors Service Inc.

Moody's said the bank's wholesale business had been "under significant pressure because of its declining debenture refinancing apabilities in the last few months." It may further cut the bank's rating because of "uncertainty" about a planned merger with Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co.

The bank's problems have exposed serious flaws in Japan's battle to rescue the finance system, analysts said.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi is battling to pass six bills to clean up the debt-laden finance sector. Even if the bills are passed, they would be unlikely to change the prospects of the once-mighty bank, created in 1952 to lead Japan's industrial charge, analysts said.

Long-Term Credit Bank, which is Long-Term Credit Bank, which is plagued with debt, was reported in sisted its merger with Sumitomo is June to be oo the verge of collapse, and its shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange became almost worthless overnight. The bank's shares closed at 42 yen (28 cents) on Wednesday, after falling to a record low 38 yen on Tuesday. Its shares once traded at 2,820 yen, in 1987.

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TOKYO - Long-Term Credit concerns about the true extent of "The share price merely reflects HSBC James Capel.

The proposed banking laws "don't even start to address the fundamental problems," he said.

The legislation "does nothing to encourage them to lend more, nothing to stimulate economic recov-Mr. Waterhouse added. Other than the plan to set up last-ditch bridge banks, the bills involved no public spending.

The government had promised 17 trillion yen to protect depositors and 13 trillion yen to inject capital into the finance system, but of the total 30 trillion yen only 1.8 trillion had been spent.

Long-Term Credit is pinning its hopes on a planned merger with Sumitorno Trust, but without public funds the country's second-biggest credit bank could fall any time, analysts said.

on track.

Moody's cut the bank's senior debt rating to Bal from Baa3. The bank's deposit rating was cut to Baa3, one notch above junk, from Baa2, and its subordinated debt rat-



GOOD COPY - "Mr. Copyright" lending his aid to Taiwan's campaign to enforce intellectual property rights. The United States has placed Taiwan on a watch list for violators.

Bank Inquiry in Indonesia

Employees of 9 Failed Lenders in Criminal Investigation

JAKARTA - Indonesia has begun criminal investigations of employees and managers at time banks it closed and liquidated last year, the central bank said Wednesday.

Mr. Ilyas said he had handed over was cut to B3 from police. The hanks were shut because ation of the currency, (Bloomberg, AFP, AP) of repeated violations of banking a surge in bad loans.

laws, including extensive lending to their own shareholders.

Owners of the banks shut in November include two children of former President Suharto, Siti Hediati Prabowo and Bambang Trihat-Achjar Ifyas, managing director modjo, and a half-brother of Mr. of the central bank, declined to name Suharto, Probosutedjo. The governthe banks or provide details of the ment has promised to revise its laws allegations, although he did say the to improve oversight of banks and to institutions were among the first make managers more accountable batch of 16 banks liquidated.

The country's banking system authority for the investigation to the nearly collapsed after the devalopolice. The hanks were shut because ation of the currency, the rupiah, and

Indonesia Reconsiders Sale of Firm

Bloomberg News

JAKARTA - The government said Wednesday it was reconsid-ering the sale of a majority stake in the cement maker PT Semen Gresik, following local opposition to the sale to a Mexican company.

Tauri Abeng, the state enterprises minister, said the government may keep a majority stake in Gresik, even though it could scuttle a \$418 million hid for 51 percent of Gresik by Cernex SA of Mexico.

That would be a reversal of announced plans to sell off majority stakes in state-owned companies to get the best price.

Mr. Tann said the government

would probably receive lower bids if it refused to give up majority control.

"The government is considering only selling a minority stake in Semen Gresik, following the strong opposition from the people of West Sumatra," Mr. Tanri said.

He met Wednesday with workers and officials in the area of Gresik's PT Semen Padang subsidiary in Sumatra

Analysts warn that opposition to the Gresik sale could jeopardize the

foreign debt during the week, the bank added. government's program to sell ma-jority control of state companies to · Soov Corp. has halted shipments in Japan of some video cameras after a magazine article showed that the cameras' foreign investors, a plan that would bring much-needed cash into Ininfrared technology could be used to see through clothing. A company spokesman said Wednesday, 'We feel an undonesia's slumping economy. bearable regret over such use."

 Menang Corp., a Malaysian real estate company, filed for bankruptcy. Menang asked for court protection to reschedule debts of 71.8 million ringgit (\$17.3 million), reduce capital and buy "cash-generating assets."

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• Indonesia's net foreign reserves fell to \$14.08 hillioo in the

week that ended Aug. 7, from \$14.19 hillion the week before, the ceutral bank said. Indonesia repaid about \$116 million in

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Very briefly:

• InfoSeek Communications (Singapore), a privately held company that provides international calling services, may face a suit by the Telecommunications Authority of Singapore for bypassing Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., which is the country's sole authorized international calling gateway.

· Mita Industrial Co. Ltd., a Japanese manufacturer of photocopiers which filed for bankruptcy this week, faked profits over the past 10 years to get bank loans, the court-appointed receiver said, by the "utterly simple method" of booking fake profits in its earnings reports. AFP, Bloomberg

TENDER FOR THE SELECTION OF A PRE-SHIPMENT INSPECTION COMPANY

The Government of the Republic of Congo invites sealed proposals from internationally reputable companies for the provision of PSI services covering imports and some exports. Interested companies will be required to submit their bid in one original and three copies to the Ministry of Finance and Budget, in Brazzaville in two separate sealed envelopes:

République du Conzo

Ministère des Finances et du Budget

Envelope "A" will contain technical data to be used for prequalification Envelope "B" will contain price proposals.

Tenders must be received at: Ministry of Finance and Budget, Office of Mr. Kaba Mbouala before 15 September 1998 at 12:00 noon, when public opening will take place.

Proposals should remain valid up to 16 November 1998. They must contain a bid bond worth CFA francs 30.000.000 (thirty Million) or its equivalent in convertible currency, established in the name of the Ministry of Finance and Budget. Bid bond is liable to forfeiture, should the Bidder chose to withdraw his/her bid between the time of the public bids opening and the expiry of the validity period, or fail to accept and sign the contract established in terms with his/her proposal by the Ministry of Finance and Budget:

Interested companies can apply for a copy of the Request for Proposals from one of the following sources through a formal request on Company stationary signed by an authorized representative:

Mr. Kaba Mbouala **Economics Advisor**

Ministère des Finances et du Budget Brazzaville

242 41 12 66 Tel: 242 81 41 45 Fax:

ICS, (the SWIPCO Group) 4, rue de la Paix 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland 41 21 318 8230

41 21 318 8231

1101 30th Street NW Suite 305 Washington, DC 20007 Tel: (202) 333-0092 (202) 333-0109 Fax:



Singapore Aims to Revitalize Industry

SINGAPORE - Singapore should cut commission rates, increase foreign ownership in brokerages and take other steps to further develop its capital markets, a government panel recommended Wednesday.

The committee's 46 recommendations, most of which are likely to be adopted, come as Singapore is trying to revitalize its finance

and securities industry amid increasing competition from Hong Kong and other aspiring financial centers in Asia such as Kuala Lumpur. Many of the proposals have been discussed by government and industry officials for several years.

"The ultimate goal is to make the industry more vibrant," said Lim Hua Min, committee chairman and head of Phillip Securities Pte.

BELARUS: Too Many Bunnies in Economy Give Country an Inflation Headache

Continued from Page 1

Union's glory days, and be sharply limited, and the conntry's human rights record has come under growing attack.

Lukashenko evicted many of one international lending foreign diplomats from their residences, and even one Bebrooks little dissent. Personal larus public servant who critand press freedoms are icized the country's fiscal policy quickly found herself jobless and in jail. "It's just another blip in

Government officials are what's become a long, slip-oot spared. This summer, Mr. pery slope, 's said an official inflation.'

agency in Minsk, the Belarussian capital. "They control

while they push up the money supply," said the official, who asked not to be identified. "The two actions are

WEALTH: Downturn Ahead for Spending?

Continued from Page 9

opments have contributed to a in exports to slumping Asian coovinced Americans that tracking their expanding Wall Street analysts who fear retirement and can stock portfolios have felt freer that a major downturn in the spend more freely. more economic growth.

The reverse, the wealth-cline in consumption shock argument, "shouldn't remainder of the year. euphoria we've had in the consumer sector lately, it doesn't see how it could happen."

During the first half of this

ing helped to cushioo the U.S. big gains in the value of coobated how much these devel- economy from the sharp drop sumers' stock portfolios have so-called "wealth effect," in economies. But Mr. Glass- they need to worry less about which American households man is one of a number of putting money away for their Wall Street analysts who fear retirement and can after to spend - and thus generate U.S. stock market could trig-

rities Inc. in New York, at an annualized rate of 6 per-When you look at all the cent, even though household a severe market decline now incomes rose at a rate of only could reduce spending in a 3 percent. The household sav-

year, robust consumer spend- Glassman, is that the recent

Some experts contend that dropped to near zero. would have to remain at lo The implication, said Mr. levels for at least a year. would have to remain at lower

ficial exchange rate is about 41,000 rubles to the dollar. But there are at least three other less official exchange rates, up to and including the hlack-market rate, which has the dollar hovering around 85,000 ruhles.

Similarly, prices in Belarus other hard gonds are officially stable, a result longstanding debt. of government decrees capping them. But unofficially, prices are edging up by 3 or 4 percent a month. Some sellers evade the decrees by reissuing their price-cootrolled goods under new names. Others sell goods on the black

Chase Securities analysts flation gnaws at the average ger an unexpectedly large de- estimate that a 10 percent sus- worker's take-home pay of 27 percent. cline in consumption in the tained decline in the stock \$50 to \$100 a month; pensions market would be expected to are even smaller. Another is flation.

be treated as a kooky idea any more," said James Glassman, is that, between January and about 0.5 percentage points over the year.

One reason for his coocern lower economic growth by isolation. Foreign companies, "To boost production, they especially Western ones, have to pay salaries," said slashed their investments in Mikhail Seleznev, a Belarus doned a semiconductor-manufacturing venture in May, matter of weeks or months. and a Western maker of telethis summer.

Almost all of Belarus's for- need it."

Officially, inflation is oo eign trade is oow conducted problem in Belarus. The of- with Russia, and eveo there, much of the trade takes the form of barter rather than using hard-to-get cash. Only last week, according to news reports, Belarus agreed to pay Russia's natural-gas monopoly, Gazprom, \$300 million in refrigerators, tractors and other hard gonds to settle a

Mr. Lukashenko's policy has been to keep state control of industries, while allowing them to react somewhat to the forces of capitalism — "market socialism," as his government calls it.

According to government market or in open-air markets statistics, it has worked: The One result is hardship. In- product leaped 11 percent last year, and exports swelled by

Unfortunately, so did in-

Belarus. Motorola Inc. aban- native and an investment analyst for United Financial Group, in Moscow. "And to pay salaries, they simply print take too much imagination to lings rate during the period Others argue that stock prices vision picture tubes pulled out money. The local curreccy is being printed whenever they

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GO: 3.50 FOO". 2,07 SC87: 5,23 SC8P: 5,06 UK (zone B) en /i - TVA 17,5% (Boul 5%) Au 10898 GO: 0,5723 FOO*: 0,3476 ALLEMAGNE (2000) DAM - TVA 16% GO: 0,92 SCSP: 1,23 MAX: GO: 1,01 SCSP: 1,97

BELGIQUE on FBM - TVA 21% GO: 20,41 FOO: 8,95 SC87: 32,15 SCSP: 30,17 LINCEMBOURG on LLEFT - TVA 15%

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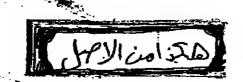
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Herald Eribune

WORLD ROUNDUP



Petr Korda keeping his eye on a return to Marcos Ondruska.

High Seeds Fall

TENNIS The apsets continued Wednesday in the second round of the ATP Championship in Mason, Ohio, when Jerome Golmard of France brushed aside Carlos Moya, the No. 4 seed, 6-4, 6-2. Two other high seeds did advance, Petr Korda, seeded No. 3, beat Marcos Ondruska of South Africa, 6-2, 6-3, and Patrick Rafter, No. 5, beat Guillaume Raoux, 6-1, 6-3. In other matches, Todd Martin won, 6-3, 6-4, against Thomas Muster, who had eliminated Tim Henman, No. 11,

the day before,
On Tuesday, Marcelo Rios, who
had reclaimed the No. 1 world ranking the day before, lost to Daniel
Vacek, 6-3, 6-2, in 62 minutes in a second-round match. (AFP, AP)

LaFontaine Retires

ICE HOCKEY Pat LaFootaine, one of the best U.S.-born bockey players, finally took his doctor's advice and retired on Tuesday.

LaFontaine's only seasoo with the New York Rangers ended oo March 16, when the 33-year-old center sustained his sixth concussion after being hit by teammate Mike Keane. Neurologist Dr. Jim Kelly told LaFootaine that he was at risk for more concussions and suggested he retire.

After his latest concussion, Lamigraine headaches, faiigue, depressioo and sleepless nights.(AP)

Injured Gendarme Moves

SOCCER Daniel Nivel, a French police officer, on Wednesday left the hospital where he lay in a coma for six weeks after being beaten hy German fans during the World

Nivel, 44, was transferred to a military hospital near Paris where he will undergo several months of physical therapy. Nivel was taken off a respirator a little over a week

ago.
"He's recuperating physically.
As far as his level of comprehension, it's better, but he still can't speak," said Annie Evrard, a hospital spokeswoman.

ACROSS

4 Convertible

6 Pull an all-nighter

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Teenager Snaps Kipketer's Streak

But Gerrouj, in the 1,500 Meters, and Jones, in 100 Meters, Roll On

By Christopher Clarev International Herald Tribune

ZURICH — Wilson Kipketer was sprinting toward the finish at the world's finest athletics meet Wednesday, but his eyes were not gazing confidently and serenely ahead. They were searching nervously to his left. It had been nearly three years since

Kipketer had felt someone gaining on him in the final stages of an 800-meter race. One year ago, on this same famously quick track in Zurieh, he had erased Sebastian Coe's last world record, gliding home to set a new standard

for the 800 meters.

But that was before he contracted malaria; before he missed months of training and all of the early season, and though he received one of the loudest ovations of the evening from this crowd of connoisseurs, his long and impressive victory streak was about to come to

The man gaining on Kipketer's left was Japheth Kimotai, a 19-year-old who like Kipketer was born in Kenya hut unlike Kipketer has yet to migrate to Denmark. Kimutai is the world junior record holder. He is the owner of the fastest time this year.

keter returned to competition and won on Saturday, but he was the better man on Wednesday in Zurich in a time of oce minute, 42.87 seconds. Kipketer was second in 1:43.18: more than two seconds off his world record. After 28 straight victories — he was last beaten in 1995 — he will attempt to start a new streak at the European Championships later this month, but Kimutai is young, gifted and in perfect health.

So is Hicham Guerronj, the Moroc-

can world-record holder in the 1,500 meters, and as he turned the final corner, he was on pace to break his own mark of three minntes and 26 seconds on this steamy evening where even those sitting still were able to break into a sweat. Since 1959, 23 world records have been matched or bettered in Zurich. In 1997, three were broken in a single evening, and the crowd was audihly prepared for more. But the wall of sound that greeted Guerrouj as he pushed himself toward the finish could not quite help him break through the barrier he had created in Rome last month.

Instead, he would have to settle for the second fastest 1,500-meter time in history: 3:26.45. Though Guerrouj missed the \$50,000 bonus reserved for

He was not in Monaco where Kip- those who break world records, he is still in the running for a larger payday.

Those athletes who win their events in all six Golden League events and the Grand Prix/Golden League final will split \$1 million. The Moroccan has won the first four legs.
So has Marion Jones, the American

who won the women's 100 Wednesday in a slightly disappointing time of 10.77 seconds. Jones, the reigning world champion, had hoped to break 10.70 seconds for the first time in Zurich but a slight headwind and a fair but not exceptional start would not allow for it.

In the women's 400, Charity Opara from Nigeria lost her chance of the jackpot when she was beaten by Grit Brener of Germany. Opara, who had won the Golden League's first three legs, was eight hundreths of a second behind Breuer, who finished in 49.51 seconds.

But Opara still had a considerably better evening than the biggest star in men's sprinting: Donovan Bailey of Canada, who pulled up midway through the 100-meter final with a left leg injury. Bailey, the world-record holder and reigning Olympic champion, had been running impressively of late, but in Zurich, the surprise winner was Sean Ogunkoya of Nigeria in 9.96 seconds.



Hakan Sukur, of Galatasaray, outleaping Grasshopper Boris Smiljanic.

Cyclists Expelled From Race After Tests

Three more Italian cyclists were disqualified Wednesday from the Tour of Portugal for failing blood tests, raising the number of riders expelled to seven.
Gilberto Simoni and Andrea Dolci, from the Cantina Tollo team, and Massimo Apollonio, racing for Vini Caldirola, were expelled just before the start of the third stage from the southern Portuguese city of Faro, Portuguese ra-

Four Italians from the Mobilvetta team were kicked out of the tour on Tuesday for the same reason.

All seven were tested by a medical team from the International Cycling Union, which describes the blood test as a safety measure rather than a doping control. The cyclists failed the test because their hematocrit level - the pro-

BERLIN - A medical expert testi-

fying in the trial of six former East

German sports officials accused of giv-

ing 19 female swimmers steroids in the

1970s and 1980s said Wednesday the

Horst Luchbert, an endocrinologist

and gynecologist who recently examined 11 of the former swimmers, told

a Berlin court that the systematic doping

was the probable cause of liver prob-

lems, body hair and deepening voices. He said one patient had developed a

liver tumor while heing given steroids. The swimmer had also been taking hirth

cootrol pills, and, said Luebbert, this

cocktail of medication was probably the

drugs probably had caused damage.

portion of red blood cells to the total volume of blood - was above 50 percent, considered a health risk.

There is no reliable way of detecting the use of EPO, a synthetic hormone that stimulates the production of oxygencarrying red blood cells, although a high red cell count can indicate its use. Stefano Giuliani, the manager of the

Mobilvetta team, said it might fire the four cyclists who failed the test. "They are professionals and must take responsibility for their behavior," Giuliani told Italian radio Wednesday.

'If their contract provides punishment for misconduct, dismissal letters will be mailed immediately.'

 The Cofidis team, which is based in France, announced Wednesday that it would fire Francesco Casagrande, its team leader, if second tests confirm he in a team car in March.

Luebbert said another swimmer had

grown a beard, five had experienced

temporary voice deepening and three had developed liver complaints.

not be named to protect their identities.

elinical pharmacology at Berlin's Ben-

jamin Franklin Institute, testified that it was known as early as the late 1970s that

anabolic steroids, even in low dosages,

bodily harm to 19 adolescent female

swimmers in the former Communist

country by giving them banned per-formance-enhancing substances be-tween 1975 and 1989.

One of the accused, Dieter Binus,

Six defendants are accused of causing

could lead to damaging side effects.

The court said the swimmers should

Norbert Rietbrock, a professor of

Doctors Say Steroids Caused Harm

used forbidden substances.

Casagrande, an Italian who won the San Sebastian Classic last Saturday, tested positive of testosterone last month but has appealed, claiming he naturally produces a high level of that

• In Lyon, a dozen cyclists riding for the Big Mat team were interviewed by police Wednesday following the seizure during the Tour de France of medicaments from a team van.

· Judicial authorities in Reims are to quizz 15 more cyclists from the Dutch team TVM, whose director and masseur, Cees Priem and Jan Moors, were released from custody Monday.

Six TVM riders have already been questioned by the investigating team set up after the seizure of 104 flasks of EPO

admitted last month that he had given

athletes in his care tablets containing

anabolic steroids, but said that he be-

lieved the dosages - a maximum of

1,000 milligrams per year — had oot

ified so far, said he had been following

the orders of his medical superiors.

Binus, the only accused to have test-

The U.S. Olympic Committee has

beeo urged by an advisory panel to turn over the testing of athletes for drugs to

an outside group, The Associated Press reported from Washington. The panel

concluded that it is a conflict of interest

for the USOC to conduct drug testing of

the athletes it supports financially.

been dangerous to their health.

■ U.S. Policy Criticized

Sparta Prague Surprises Dynamo in Kiev, 1-0

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputches

Dynamo Kiev, a Champions' Cup quarter finalist last year, lost, 1-0, at home to Sparta Prague Wednesday in the first leg of the European Cham-pions' Cup second qualifying round. Miroslav Baranek gave Sparta the

lead after five minutes and Dynamo

WORLD SOCCER

Dynamo's Oleksandr Khatskevich and Sparta's Vlastimil Svoboda were both

shown a red card. In Istanbul, Galatasaray Grasshoppers of Zurich, 2-1.

Gheorge Hagi, a veteran Romanian midfielder, scored with a penalty in the 59th minote to open up a game that had been dominated by the Swiss side's combative midfield. In the 67th minute, Hakan Sukur hit a flying left-footed voiley that bounced from post to post before crossing the line.

Johann Vogel scored an away goal for Grasshoppers when he converted an

87th minute penalty.
In Tbilisi, Levan Khomeriki and Levan Tskitishvili scored in the first 30. minotes against Athletie Bilbao. But Dynamo, the Georgian champion, could not press its advantage as it won, 2-1. Dynamo had a chance to go 3-0 ahead hut David Mudzhiri's powerful free kick hit the bar in the 44th minute.

Two minutes after half time. Geor-gian full back Zviab Zeladze headed the ball into the path of Athletic striker, Andoni Imaz, who scored.

In Helsinki, in a match in which neither team looked capable of scoring.

without help, Jeff Strasser, the center half for Metz of France, poked the ball, into his own goal in the 71st minute to give HJK. Helsinki a 1-0 victory. the African Nations Cup rather than play neighbor Entrea, the African confederation said Wednesday. The two

countries, which have been involved in a border dispute since May, were to play Aug. 23 in Egypt.

• Vincent Onana, the president of Cameroon's Football Association, was suspended from his post following his

M. Fill Investige

OBSTHE MEN NEF.

RIATIONAL ROCHINES

LINGS OF THE SECOND

Hiri Binta

detention over a World Cup ticket sales scandal. The board said the incarceration of Onana at the Yaounde maximum security prison since June had left; a power vacuum at the association. CONCACAF Saprissa from Costa Rica!

ousted two-time defending champion: Cruz Azul of Mexico City, 5-3, on pen-alties after a 0-0 draw as the Caribbean, North and Central American region Champions' Cup opened Tuesday in Washington. Roy Lassiter scored four goals as host D.C. United beat Joe Public of Trinidad, 8-0. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

CROSSWORD

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7. Sv—Nen (30). HRs—San Francisco, J. Kent 2 (19).
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SOCCER CHAMPIONS CUP

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SPORTS

War Trying to Restore Bits Of a Shattered Life Appleby Back to Golf After Wife's Death

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Service

EDMOND, Washington -- They had been on the way to Paris for a second honeymoon, a loving second honeymoon, a loving second honeymoon, a loving word. But now, Stuart Appleby, the 1998 Kemper Open champion, is back on his own without Renay, the joy of his life. Incredibly, he has decided to play here this week at the PGA Championship, clearly still numb from the tragedy that took place outside Wa-terlon Station in London on the afternoon of July 23, but determined to "look at it from what would Renay really want me to do."

A week after the British Open, Renay Appleby, 25, died in an accident while ing a bag from the taxi they had just shared to catch a train to France. She was so close to him, and yet there was nothing he could do when a taxi driver who thought he was in drive was acthally in reverse. He stepped on the gas, only to have the vehicle lurch backward and crush Renay against another car with enough force to end her life.

Stuart Appleby will be playing less

than three weeks after the funeral that sunned the world of professional golf and all of his native Australia, where Renay and Stuart grew to love the game they both played so well, and ultimately to love each other. It was not a difficult decision to play this week, Appleby said Tuesday during an emotional news con-ference he said he also felt strongly about getting through.

"I'm trying to take little steps at a time, trying to fit my life into where it once was," Appleby said. "She'd want me to get back on with the right frame of mind. You never forget someone like Renay. She's going to steer me in the right direction. At this point, days are more important than scores."

Renay Appleby was a childhood competitor of Karrie Webb, the LPGA tour star. Renay often told friends she did not like Stuart very much when they first met because, according to a friend of theirs, the Australian golfer Robert Allenby,

'She thought be was a stuck-up pig.' At the time, in 1992, both were playing on an Australian team touring the United States for matches against college teams. When their coach tried to pair them to play a match against Texas Tech in Lubbock, Renay wanted no part of it. They played together anyway, won easily and

their relationship was on the upswing.

Three years later, she caddled for him. on the Nike Tour, making friends

Washington Post Service

between Dallas Cowboys wide re-

ceiver Michael Irvin and starting

guard Everett McIver to see if the

league's new violent crime policy

was breached, even if criminal

Greg Aiello, an NFL spokesman,

said the league would continue to

have no comment on an incident that

left McIver with a two-inch cut on his

neck from seissors after a scuffle dur-

ing a hair-cutting session at Dallas's

training camp dormitory in Wichita

charges have not been filed.

wherever she went. They married in 1996, and Renay was almost always with him afterward. When Stuart reached the PGA Tour, she dropped the bag and watched from behind the ropes. She saw him win more than \$2 million and two events, and was at his side when he hoisted the Kemper Open trophy above his head in June after a dramatic finish.

Tuesday, the light that shone so brightly that afternoon in Potomac, Maryland, was gone from Stnart Appleby's eyes. He has not shaved for a while, and his scraggly reddish beard occasionally was matted with tears as he struggled to hold his composure through a 30-minute news conference that left many in his audience in similar straits.

"At my best, I feel very, say, normal,"
he said. "At my worst, I feel terrible. It's
a feeling I'd never want to wish on anyone." Appleby has been embraced by his
competitors, many of whom have called or written or walked over just to say hello during the past two days. That has been a great comfort to him this week as he has returned to the only life he has ever really known. Thesday, he played a practice round with Tiger Woods, his friend and neighbor in Orlando, Florida, where he and Renay bought their first home.

"I saw him yesterday for the first time and it was tough to talk to him," Woods said Tuesday. "I get choked up talking about it. I knew Renay just a

taking about it. I knew Renay just a little bit as a friend, and she was a genuine person and just the greatest."

Said Fred Couples: "You drive it in the trees and make a triple bogey and go to the next hole—and if you're worried about it for a while, you just relate it to things that happen to other people. That's easy to say, but in this instance, it's really hit home.

"I give him a lot of credit just to be

"I give him a lot of credit just to be able to come out. To be back on the course and doing what he's done his whole life is really where he should

Appleby essentially said that was why he had come to the PGA Cham-pionship. Playing golf is the furthest thing from his mind this week, and 'there's not one hour when I don't think about her," he said.

But I know this is something I have to do. I feel very lucky that I knew her, and the time we spent together was really great quality. I have no regrets. I feel she was the first prize in the raffle of life, and

I was lucky enough to pick her.
"I know her well enough to know what she'd want me to do. I've got to imagine she's here, she's helping me,

Falls, Texas. McIver missed 11 days

"I fully expect the NFL to give a

McIver has not filed a complaint

with police, and no charges bave been

filed. But the league could discipline

Irvin under the violent crime policy,

introduced in March. The policy cov-

ers any incidents that involve the use

or threat of physical violence and the

use of a deadly weapon in the com-

Jones, the Dallas owner. "It wouldn't

and everything will be O.K.?. in the major leagues.

Atlanta leads San Diego by two NFL Will Investigate Irvin

"There's a lot of August left," said Tony La Rossa, the St Louis manager. McGwire had been tied for the homer lead with Sammy Sosa, who homered

twice Monday for Chicago, bnt did not connect Tuesday. McGwire moved back on top with a 464-foot drive in the fourth inning.

He broke Hack Wilson's NL record



The high-leaping Royce Clayton helps the Rangers defeat the Indians, 2-1.

Padre Relievers Preserve 3-1 Victory Over Atlanta

SAN DIEGO — Relievers Randy Myers, Dan Miceli and Trevor Hoffman shnt down the Atlanta Braves as the San Diego Padres won a matchip of the top two teams in the National League..

"The thing that's tough about those guys, especially since they've acquired Myers, is that if you get down by one or two runs going into the seventh or eighth inning, the game is over, pretty much," said Denny Neagle, the Atlanta starting pitcher after his team lost, 3-1,

Down 3-1, Atlanta put two runners on base with no outs in the eighth. But Myers, recently acquired from Toronto, and Miceli escaped the inning, and Hoffman breezed through the ninth on just eight pitches for his 39th save, most

games in the chase for home-field advantage should they meet in the NL

championship series.

Mots 8, Cardinals 3 In St. Louis, Mark McGwire hit his 47th home run and set an NL record for most homers before September, but the Cardinals still lost to

of 46 homers through Angust set in

Astros 6, Brewers 5 For the seventh

time this season, Houston rallied to win a game in which it trailed after eight

Bill Spiers hit a tying single in the ninth inning and Tony Eusehio's pinchhit single in the 10th ended the game at the Astrodome.

Jeff Bagwell and Moises Alon homered on consecutive pitches in the

Giants 8, Cubs 7 Jeff Kent hit a pair of two-run homers and Barry Bonds drove in three runs as San Francisco beat Chicago to stop a five-game losing streak.

The host Giants blew a 5-0 lead, but

came back in the seventh when Bonds singled home the tying run and Kent hit his 19th home run. Martins 8, Dodgers 6 Rookie Jesus Sanchez pitched 61/2 scoreless innings,

and Todd Danwoody homered and drove in three runs as Florida won at Dodger Stadium. The Marlins led, 8-0, and got 17 hits, the most against Los Angeles this sea-

Rockies 15, Expos 6 Mike Lansing, Vinny Castilla and Todd Helton each drove in four runs as Colorado beat

atreal in Denver. Dante Bichette went 4-for-4 and is batting .347, three points behind league

leader John Olernd of the Mets. ondbacks 7, Phillies 3 Tony Batista hit two home runs and Andy Benes won at home for the first time in nearly three months. Philadelphia lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

Pirates 7, Reds n Francisco Cordova pitched a six-hitter and Kevin Young and Jason Kendall each homered as Pittsburgh won in Cincinnati.

Wells Is Almost Perfect Shutting Out Twins, 7-0

NEW YORK - His perfect game created a cottage industry for David Wells, whose locker is stuffed with memorabilia requiring his signature. There will always be another Beanie Baby or ticket stuh or baseball for Wells to scrawl across.

The perfect game, too, heightened general expectations of Wells — and, others believe, Wells's expectations of himself. Regarded as undisciplined in the past, Wells marches onward toward his first 20-victory season.

Tuesday night, in his first game against Minnesota since he pitched the perfect game May 17, he held the Twins to four hits and faced just three batters over the minimum of 27 in a 7-0 victory

AL ROUNDUP

at Yankee Stadium. The shutout raised Wells's record to 15-2.

The Yankees have won the first six games of their current home stand, outscoring their opponents by 48-12 and trailing in only three and a half of 54 innings. They have won nine of their last 10 games, for an unthinkable record of 86 victories and 29 losses. They are

unstoppable.

Wells has won 15 of his last 16 decisions since losing his first start of the year, and with perhaps nine starts remaining for a team that loses about every week or 10 days, the chances of 20

victories are excellent After sparring with managers and coaches over the years over his conditioning or other alleged violations, Wells seems concentrated and focused,

like those around him. The perfect game, manager Joe Torre called a lot of attention to

He added, "That could be the reason

why he's so consistent."
Wells is permanently on notice, in other words; if he has the ability to pitch perfect game, he has the ability to

Going into last night's game, Wells was 9-1 with a 2.82 earned run average after the perfect game. Over his last seven starts, dating to June 20, opposing batters have just one I hit in 35 at-bats with runners in scoring position. Torre mentioned that on those nights that Wells did not have his great stuff - if

his curve ball was missing, if his fast ball did not have its usual zip — he fought and battled and found a way to win.

Wells did have his great stuff Tues-day night. Great fast ball. Good curve

ball, a changeup.

Brent Gates quickly ended the question of whether Wells would throw hack-to-back perfect games against the Twins: The second batter of the game, Gates bounced a chopper down the third-base line, the ball kicking past Scott Brosius for a double.

Wells otherwise shackled the Twins, facing just one batter over the minimum for the next five innings as his teammates hammered the former Yankees prospect Erie Milton.

The Yankees' victory improved Torre's career record to 1,168 victories and 1,168 losses, the first time he has reached .500 since he managed the Mcts more than 21 years ago. He later man-aged Atlanta and St. Louis before joining the Yankees prior to the 1996 season. In other games, The Associated Press

reported: Seattle's Ken Griffey failed to homes for the 10th straight game, going 1-for-4 with two strikeouts. Griffey, who leads the American League with 41 homers, has not connected in 46 at-bats - his

longest drought of the season. Rangers 2, Indians 1 Esteban Loaiza, acquired from Pittshurgh on July 17, allowed one run and seven hits in 71/s innings in Cleveland to get his first

victory for Texas. Devil Rays 2, Orioles 1 Bobby Smith singled home the winning run off Armando Benitez (4-3) with two onts in the ninth as Tampa Bay beat visiting

Red Sox 7, Royals 4 In Boston, Nomar Garciaparra tied the score with Kansas City with a solo homer in the sixth, then

hit a three-run shot in the 10th that raised his season total to 24. Angels 5, Tigers 4 Luis Gonzalez dropped Craig Shipley's fly to left for an error, allowing Jim Edmonds to score the winning run for Anaheim in the 11th at Tiger Stadium as Detroit lost its 11th

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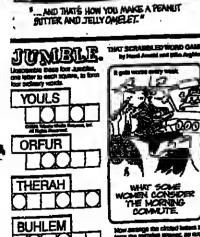
Athletics 6, White Sox 4 Bip Roberts had three hits, including a two-run double. Ben Grieve also drove in two runs as Oakland stopped a three-game losing streak in Chicago.



David Wells of the Yankees was near perfect in raising his record to 15-2.

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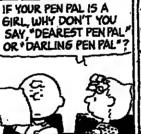
mission of a crime.

surprise me."

The National Fontball League's se- of practice and two games since July

curity office will look into an incident 29. He returned to practice Monday.





TURN IT ON. LET'S HEAR







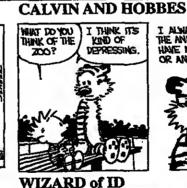


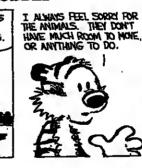












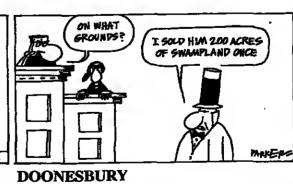




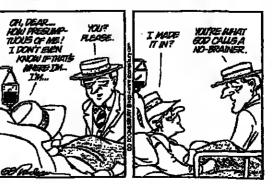


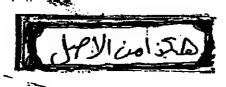












ART BUCHWALD

Party, Party, Party

MARTHA'S VINE-YARD, Massachusetts - The most important thing to do on vacation, next to eating com on the cob, is go to a

The cocktail party has taken on so much importance that people now drive hundreds of miles to mingle with

folks they just had a drink with the night before. The cocktail party moves from hostess to hostess and is the main method of repaying someone for a the week before.

party she gave Buchwald After attending 45 parties in August, one starts asking the question, "Why do we if we don't go to someone in bacon, else's cocktail party they One of

won't come to ours. The key to a successful party is who attends it. A minor movie actress, a newspaper editor, a defense lawyer or a psychiatrist on vacation is another cocktail party again a good mix. Once in a while, — at least until the Gallaif you are lucky, someone ghers, whose daughter plays may bring a house guest who with your 13-year-old daughjust bought a telephone com- ter - sends you an invitation

VINE- Geraldo Rivera's show. The main method of communicating is small talk. Ex-

citing subjects could be where your kid goes to college and how you got out of the rough ou the 14th hole. Because of the din, it's rare

at a cocktail party that you can understand what the other person says. I tried an experiment last week. Someone asked how I was doing and I said, "My grandmother died." The person said, "That's just and another one great," chimed in, "You lucked out."

Food is essential for a good cocktail party. For some it provides instant gratification; for others it takes the place of dinner. Some hostesses prefer to serve one string bean on a cracker. Others will keep going to parties?" The let the budget fly and give answer is simple, and that is, away hits of melon wrapped

> One of the toughest parts of a cocktail party is leaving it. In most cases there are several cars parked behind you, and there is no way to get ont.

So you vow never to go to pany or is a DNA expert on for next Sunday night.

High Dudgeon at the Albert Hall

New York Times Service

ONDON — Whoever knew classical music fans — nay, Lenglish classical music fans — could be so rowdy? At a concert at Albert Hall in London, a group of "anti-modern to the concert at Albert Hall in London, a group of Oliver Knussen's music activists" disrupted a performance of Oliver Knussen's 'Coursing" hy the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. The Evening Standard reported that the protesters took over a balcony hox, set off an alarm and proceeded to dump leaflets on the audience,

The leaflets called the concert, part of this month's Proms series sponsored by the BBC, a "banal grab bag of other people's musical effects." The protesters then fled. No arrests were reported and the concert continued after a brief delay, the newspaper said, "to turnultuous applause."

Live! At Last, in Moscow — the Rolling Stones

By Celestine Bohlen New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Mick Jagger said it all, in Russian.

"At last, we are here," the 55-year-old rock singer yelled into the microphone, his voice booming across a sports stadium filled with about 50,000 cheering Russians. Many had waited 20, even 30, years to see the Rolling Stones, live and in Moscow.

Many fans at the concert Tuesday nightan extravaganza of smoke, lights and special effects, dampened only somewhat by a cold rain — had been teenagers when the Stones were at the peak of their popularity. In those days, their records — or copies of their records, ingeniously made on X-ray film were traded like illicit treasure in Moscow's subway tunnels and dark courtyards, out of the sight of the Soviet police.

Those days are long gone. The Communist anthorities — who, like tyrannical parents, had feared rock and roll and tried to keep it away from young people — fell from power seven years ago. But still the Stones had not come to Russia.

Pink Floyd came. So did Michael Jackson. But not the Stones, the group that, with the Beatles, best evoked the sad and funny trav-

ails of being a teenager in the Soviet Union.
"I thought I wouldn't live long enough," said Andrei, 42, a Moscow businessman who came to the concert Tuesday night at the Luzhniki stadium.

Simeon, 40, a television producer who, like Andrei, declined to give his last name, said, "For me, it is enough if they just walk out on stage. Why? Because for us they are a

legend."

The Stones began the concert with "Sat-isfaction," which the crowd happily joined in, word for word. By trying to keep their youths away from Western mass culture, the Soviet authorities succeeded only in making them commit its lyrics and music to memory.

The ban on rock music meant that there were no locally produced records. Western labels were brought in, in small quantities, by tourists, diplomats and sailors and sold on the black market for as much as a student's monthly stipend.

Copies were made on reel-to-reel tapes, or on disks cut from used X-ray film — known as "bones" because of the vaguely visible X-ray images — on which the grooves of vinyl records could be etched.

To keep up with their idols, fans had to

win, who were convicted of kidnapping Sinatra in 1963. Without the court order,

the men would have been paid \$750,000 to \$1 million, Sinatra's lawyer said. The

California Legislature passed a law in

1986 to prevent felons from profiting

from their criminal activity. However,

Columbia Pictures alleges that the law is

"The Avengers" may be headed for trouble at the box office, with its studio,

Warner Bros., declining to show it to

critics before its release Friday. The

film's producer, Jerry Weintraub, said

his decision to skip an early screening

has nothing to do with the movie's mer-

its. The film, based on a popular '60s television series, stars Ralph Fiennes,

unconstitutional



Keith Richards, left, and Mick Jagger making their first appearance in Russia.

for the occasional lapse in vigilance.
In the 1960s, the Soviet record company Melodia included the Beatles' song "Girl" in a multirecord series on music from around the world. The song was titled "Folk Music and Lyrics," without identifying the group. The record quickly sold out, as did a record put out in the 1970s with several songs by the Stones, who were identified only as an "English vocal and instrumental group."
Russian bands succeeded in playing Paul

scrounge for their pictures in foreign songs submitted to local culture anthorities, magazines, or scout Soviet music products Jagger, in an interview on Russian tele-Jagger, in an interview on Russian television, recalled the nonnegotiable "nyet" delivered by the formidable Yekaterina Furt-

> the 1970s. Looking back, fans see the effort, and skill, that went into keeping up with the

youth revolution in the West not so much as absurd, but as almost heroic.

"Those were the times we lived in," said

in other times, but maybe we should look back with pride at how we got around those rules. Maybe if they had allowed us everything, it would not have been as inter-

esting. Vasili Kapko, a 44-year-old driver who grew up in Ukraine on the Soviet Union's western borders, had no trouble following the Beatles, the Stones and all the other groups that came after them; he just turned on the radio and picked up European sta-

'I liked it, so I listened," he said. "It was all there. There were those who had the money to buy the records, and those who didn't have the money found a friend who did and made tapes. In the end, everybody

For Kapko, Tuesday night's concert was mostly a trip down memory lane. He has not kept up with the Stones and his children prefer punk and grunge to rock and roll.

"It was our youth," he said. "I couldn't But maybe, some fans said wistfully, 20

years is just too long to wait. "I don't like to say it, but I think of this as an exhibition at a museum," Katchalin

Now in their 50s and 60s, the Stones look their age - even if they do not act it - and the audience, by its reactions, revealed its own generation gap. The 30- and 40-something crowd came alive for the golden oldies, while the younger generation, in their 20s, were happier with the newer songs, like

"Love Is Strong." For Moscow, a city still struggling to achieve normality, the stopover by the Stones here during their much-touted "Bridges to Babylon" European tour was a sign that it too makes the grade.

Having seen the Rolling Stones live, we become like everyone else, at least in this field of human endeavor," noted a commentator in the newspaper Moscow News. It was left to papers close to the now enfeebled seva, the Soviet minister of culture, when the Communist Party to note that the Stones idea of a Moscow concert was broached in came here only "in their declining years."

But it was a local radio station, in a zany talk show broadcast after the concert, that put the Moscow appearance of the Stones in new historical perspective by staging an imag-inary phone linkup between Lenin, the longdead founder of the Soviet state fictitiously Russian bands succeeded in playing Paul
McCartney tunes on road trips by identifying their author as Pavel Makarov on the list of

Maxim Katchalin, a 37-year-old public representation of the exceptions. Now we live resurrected and performing at Carnegie Hall in New York, and Mick Jagger, talking from Moscow, comparing concert notes.



CALIFORNIA court has issued a Uma Thurman and Sean Connery. restraining order sought by Frank Sinatra Jr. that prevents three men who kidnapped him 35 years ago from profiting from a movie about the crime. The court order temporarily prevents Columbia Pictures from paying Barry Keenan, Joseph Amsler and John Ir-

Tommy Lee has been sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$800 for assaulting a security guard at a concert in Arizona last winter. The Motley Crue serve the 30 days at the same time as his

drummer spoke with a Phoenix city judge by phone from the Los Angeles County Jail, where he is serving a sixmonth sentence for kicking his estranged wife, Pamela Anderson. Under

California sentence. Lee and a fellow (band member, Nikki Sixx, were charged with assault on the security guard in December.

In a strongly worded statement, Buckingham Palace dismissed a new book

about Princess Diana's death as fantasy and called it 'deeply hurtful' to the royal family. In "The Day Diana Died," the author, Christopher Andersen, al-leges that within an hour of hearing that

the princess had been killed in a Paris car

Ferlinghetti Is San Francisco's Poet Laureate

PEOPLE

The Associated Press

S AN FRANCISCO — Lawrence Ferlinghetti, whose City Lights bookstore is a landmark of the Beat Generation, has been parned San Francisco's first

"I'm really honored because I'd rather be poet laureate of San Francisco than any other city in the world," said Ferlinghetti, 79, at a City Hall ceremony. As poet laureate, Ferlinghetti will be asked to give readings and visit libraries to meet with young aspiring poets. He also will receive a \$5,000 honorarium from a private foundation.

Ferlinghetti is the author of two novels and more than a half-dozen collections of poems. A New York native who has called San Francisco home since the 1950s, he said be already had a few ideas for how to use his year of service. "One is the establishment of a poet's house in Treasure Island or at the

Presidio," he said, resurrecting an idea for an official poetry headquarters he

crash Ang. 31, Queen Elizabeth II inquired about whether she had any royal jewels with her and whether they were safe. The claim is "completely inac-curate and without any foundation whatsoever," said a palace spokeswoman. The book, published this week in the United States, also said the queen tried to stop Prince Charles from flying to. France to claim his former wife's body. On the contrary, the spokeswoman said, the queen suggested her son use a Royal Squadron aircraft to bring the princess's body back to Britain.





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